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Revamp of pavilion is to begin in few weeks

WORK to restore a £230,000 cricket pavilion gutted by fire is to start within a few weeks, it has been announced.

Lye Cricket Club members were devastated after the building suffered heavy damage in the arson attack last month.

But checks have shown the structure of the pavilion is sound and plans are now in the pipeline to strip and restore the interior. Bosses said they hoped work would begin 'within the next four or five weeks'.

A beer festival held at the site has also raised an estimated near £3,000 to help get the club back on its feet.

Club spokesman Jake Hanson said the club was very grateful for all the support it had received.

He added: "Thankfully the pavilion will not need to be demolished. At the moment we are still in talks with the insurers but this process should be completed soon."

"The beer festival was a real success. This money will be used to cover bills and costs. At the moment we obviously cannot hire out the pavilion, which is where this money is normally raised."

Flames could be seen leaping three feet into the air from the veranda when fire crews arrived at the club to tackle last month's blaze.

Kick-off for starry hope

DUDLEY five-a-side footballers could get the chance to play against a side of soccer and radio legends.

Goals Dudley is hosting a round of the Men United Cup at its centre in the town's Cakemore Road on September 29 from 7pm, to raise money and awareness for Prostate Cancer UK.

And the overall national winners will play a team made up of the station's presenters, including Colin Murray, Johnny Vaughan and Stan Collymore.

To enter call Goals Dudley on 0121 561 3000.

HUMAN 'FIREBALL' ATTACK MAN JAILED

Families barge in for free trips



Chris Leach with, from left, Layla Marklew, Freya Brown, Lyndon Wood, all aged four, Edward McGee, six, and Harrison Marklew, two, at the canalside for the Black Country fun day event which was held at the weekend

FAMILIES saw the Black Country by water as they jumped aboard a narrowboat during a fun day this weekend.

Almost 200 people took trips along the Dudley No2 Canal as part of an event, organised to showcase the region's waterways.

The event had been organised in conjunction with Coombswood Canal Trust and charity Groundwork West Midlands.

The community project organisation has helped waterways enthusiasts clean up towpaths to make them more appealing to visitors.

Volunteers have been busy tidying the canal, which runs from Tipton, through Dudley, Netherton and Halesowen. It has been targeted by vandals and flytippers over the years. Yobs have also sprayed graffiti over signs along the canal dedicated to the workers of manufacturers Noah Hingley and Sons, who built the Titanic anchor.

But as part of the improvements Cradley Heath-based artist Luke Perry was commissioned to install 24 pieces of artwork along the canal towpaths that depicted local features and reflected the rich industrial heritage of the area. Volunteers have also been

working with Dudley Canal Trust which is planning a £3 million investment in a new education centre in the town.

Saturday's trips on a 70ft long narrowboat called Electra started at Chancel Way in Halesowen including taking in the Hawne basin and Gorsty Hill tunnel.

Groundwork project manager Chris Leach said: "It has been a great family day out. Many people have said to us 'I never knew this was down here', and that's what it has all been about."

There was also a host of other family activities including a visit by an animal experience company and face painting.

by Adam Burling

A MAN from Dudley who poured petrol on his ex-girlfriend before setting her alight and turning her into a human 'fireball' has been jailed for 19 years.

Damon Sheldon, of Russells Hall Road, went to Louise Pilkington's Rowley Regis home and poured petrol through her letterbox, before dousing her in it when she came to the door to see what was going on, Wolverhampton Crown Court was told.

Witnesses had described seeing her burn 'like a fireball' after she was set alight on December 2.

A 13-month-old infant was rescued from inside the property and had to be resuscitated, while another child, aged nine, escaped unharmed.

The jury took three-and-a-half hours to find him guilty of attempted murder following a trial in July.

Sheldon had told the jury he had gone to Miss Pilkington's home with the intention of killing himself in front of her after struggling to get over the breakdown of their relationship.

Messages

Sentencing him Judge John Warner said: "It was pure chance that this did not end up as a catastrophe with a woman and two children dead. If you intended to kill yourself you obviously thought the better of it as you went on to set fire to the house and then made off."

The trial had been told how 42-year-old Sheldon had sent Miss Pilkington four text messages in the 24 hours before he went to her house in Haden Walk as he tried to get her to speak to him.

After celebrating his birthday on December 1 by drinking nearly three litres of cider, vodka and a few pints of lager, he had taken the petrol can and a claw



Jailed - Damon Sheldon hammer to Miss Pilkington's home just after midnight.

Neighbours described seeing Miss Pilkington run onto her neighbour's front lawn, take off her night clothes and roll on the grass in a desperate effort to douse the flames.

Sheldon had denied attempted murder and said he remembered little about events that night but had gone to her house to kill himself, not her.

He had pleaded guilty to arson being reckless as to whether the life of the child was endangered. He was jailed for 15 years for the attempted murder and four years for the arson charge.

Miss Pilkington suffered burns to 15 to 16 per cent of her body, needing skin grafts and causing scarring on her arms.

Mayor to open new £50k wing for centre

A DUDLEY watersports centre will make a splash as it opens its new £50,000 wing and celebrates its 50th anniversary.

The Mayor of Dudley, Councillor Alan Finch, will officially launch the wing, paid for with a grant from the National Lottery's Sport England Facilities Olympic and Paralympic Legacy Fund, on Saturday.

The centre, at Lodge Farm Reservoir in Netherton, will offer free sailing, triathlon and swimming and reduced rate water skiing and wakeboarding over the whole weekend.

The lottery grant has created new changing rooms, including provision for people with disabilities, a new training room and a sports teaching facility.

Visitors can have a go at water skiing and wakeboarding, with tuition followed by a session on the water for £7 a head. Places need to be booked by calling Karen Patchett on 07595 355 291 or emailing karenp116@aol.com

For £3.50 a head, people can ride on a ringo - a round rubber ring with handles, seating up to two, which is towed along by a boat.

There will be motor boat trips for £1.50 a person, while visitors can try sailing with an instructor free of charge and qualified divers can enjoy a free dive.

Westfield in profits loss

THE owners of the Merry Hill Shopping Centre saw a fall in profits in the first half of the year, it has been announced.

The net profits of the Westfield Group were down by 36 per cent to £332 million as sales of less profitable malls reduced overall revenue.

The Australian group has £1.8 billion worth of malls under development, including the retail section of the World Trade Centre in New York which is due for completion in 2015.

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Appeal on gold watch robbery



The stolen watch

POLICE hunting three masked men who pinned a woman to her bed during a 'brutal' robbery at her home have released an image of a watch which belonged to her dead husband that was stolen during the raid.

The 52-year-old widow was targeted at her home in Fox Street, Woodsetton, on Thursday night.

Her screams eventually forced the gang to flee but they took two watches, one of which belonged to the woman's husband who died seven years ago.

Dc Darren Brown said: "This was an extremely brutal attack on a defenceless woman. The watch is of extreme sentimental value, as it was bought for the lady's husband's 40th birthday, who sadly died five years later."

"The watch, a gold Swiss Ebel with a cream face, is very distinctive as it has been made smaller to fit a woman's wrist. The family are desperate to recover it." Anyone with information can contact police on 101.

Women are urged to get laced up in time for race

WOMEN are being urged to lace up their trainers ready to take part in the latest Race for Life fundraising race to be held in the Midlands.

Cancer Research UK is hosting its Race for Life Twilight in the grounds of Himley Hall on October 18 starting at 7pm.

The 5k race will follow a course taking in the picturesque location of the 18th century manor house including the gardens designed by Capability Brown.

To enter Race for Life Twilight visit www.raceforlife.org/twilight or call 0845 600 6050.

Jail for men after police found a gun

TWO men who had a pump action shotgun in their car in Dudley town centre were jailed for five years.

Police went to investigate the blue Ford Mondeo in Bull Street on February 1 because there was a strong smell of cannabis, Wolverhampton Crown Court was told.

As they got closer to the vehicle, passenger Imran Ahmed, of Victoria Road, Tipton, ran away, while the driver Mohammed Rahman remained at the wheel. Mr Christopher Gibbons, prosecuting, said officers noted the 'alarmed and panicky demeanour' of Rahman, of Tudor Road, Tipton, before they saw the firearm.

Rahman, aged 31, was arrested and a firearms expert was then called. After officers found a tracksuit top belonging to 33-year-old Ahmed near the Earl of Dudley pub, he was found and arrested.

Ahmed had pleaded guilty at an earlier hearing to the possession of a prohibited weapon. Rahman admitted the same charge.

New appeal is launched to find missing Natalie

by Louise Jew

FRIENDS and family of a teenage girl who vanished when she left her Dudley home to go to the shops have launched a fresh appeal to find her - 10 years since she was last seen.

Natalie Putt, of Thornleigh, Lower Gornal, Dudley, was 17 when she disappeared on September 1, 2003. She never returned, despite having a three-month-old baby son, named Rhys, at home.

Now, a decade later, friends and relatives have renewed their appeals to find Natalie - blitzing social networking websites with appeals for help, including tweets to stars such as Ant and Dec, Lord Sugar, ex-Spice Girl Emma Bunton, Jonathan Ross and Boy George.

Natalie's half sister, 36-year-old Rebecca Coggins, said: "We've got to believe there is still some hope that she's out there somewhere and it would be nice to think she's made her own little life and is happy."

"But we need to know - that's the agony. We don't think she would have gone off and left her baby - there's got to be more to it than meets the eye."

Equipment

"But we have to face the possibility there was something made her leave that day. Natalie going missing has been a journey that you wouldn't wish on anybody."

In March police hunting for Natalie started digging up land in a paddock, where she is believed to have once kept two horses, next to Himley Lodge on the A449 Stourbridge Road in Himley.

Hydraulic equipment was used to cut through the concrete floor of a brick outbuilding but police called off the search after finding nothing nearly three days later.

The following month, police revealed that the case of missing Natalie was one of six 'cold' cases about which they were appealing to the public for help in solving - the other five cases were murders.

Rebecca said friends had been busy tweeting a 'missing' poster about Natalie since yesterday and a fresh plea was posted on a Facebook page set up to try to find her.

"I haven't got a clue about Twitter but they have and they're contacting everybody they can think of, even celebrities who don't know her, to retweet the appeal in the hope that it will bring some news," she added.

"I'll be catching up with them later about what response they may have had."

"We will keep the campaign up and running



One of the last photographs taken of Natalie and baby Rhys

and will never give up - while there's hope we will keep going."

TV presenters Holly Willoughby, Kirstie Allsop, Kate Thornton and Jake Humphrey and actress Amanda Holden are among the celebrities invited to retweet the appeal.

Natalie's son, Rhys, is now aged 10 and living with his father, the missing girl's boyfriend Kevin McCallum.

In March 2009, Natalie was featured on a missing person programme, which sparked reported sightings of her in Tipton, Cardiff, Bournemouth and Scotland dating back to 2005.

But, despite police investigations into the sightings, they drew a blank.

West Midlands Police spokesman Brig Ford



An image released of how Natalie might look today, aged 24



The teenager in school uniform

said today: "The case is still open and if any credible information comes in we will act upon it, as we did in March, when we brought in special equipment to search the land in Himley."

Sheena Hamilton, who used to own Himley Lodge and now lives next door in Himley Park, said today: "I feel desperately sorry for the family and just hope their new appeal brings some answers - I'm certain that somebody must know something about what has happened to Natalie."

"She was a lovely girl and was only a kid - but she loved her baby and I don't believe there's any way she would have just left him."

Anyone with information that might help to find Natalie is urged to phone police on 101.

Club tees up for donation

FORTY golfers teed off in a charity golf day which raised more than £900 to help fund an advice centre in Stourbridge.

The event, held at the Little Lakes Golf Club in Bewdley, was organised by What? Centre counsellor Steve Woodall.

Steve, who is also a keen golfer, managed to attract competitors from as far away as London to compete for the trophy.

Julie Duffy, chief officer of the What? centre said she was 'absolutely delighted' with the effort Steve had made and thanked him for his commitment to raising funds for the work of the centre.

The event, on August 17, was won by Carl Cashmore, with Tony Beard as runner-up.

Parade service details released

DETAILS have been announced for the annual Battle of Britain commemorations in Stourbridge.

The members of the Stourbridge branch of the Royal Air Forces Association will hold the annual Parade Service on September 15 at 11am in Mary Stevens Park, off Heath Lane.

All are welcome including with anyone with links to the RAF to come along.

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Flood of names in running for award

MORE than 100 athletes, trainers and clubs have been nominated for this year's Black Country Sport & Physical Activity awards. And there is still time for people to get their nominations in.

Black Country BeActive, which organises the event, says in total 120 nominations have been submitted for the awards which take place on November 8 at the Copthorne Hotel in Dudley.

The closing date is September 13. Simon Hall, partnership director at the Brierley Hill based Black Country BeActive said: "It has been a busy few weeks for the awards and we have been inundated with requests for nomination forms."

Black Country BeActive has also secured the University of Wolverhampton as a supporter for the event.

Last year Wolverhampton's Olympic gymnastic sensation Kristian Thomas was a double award winner.

For those looking to nominate someone for this year's awards each category has a separate nomination form which can be found at www.blackcountrybeactive.co.uk.

All nominees must either, have been born, live in, or undertake their activity in the Black Country.

The qualification period is September 10, 2012 to September 9, 2013 unless otherwise specified. For details people can contact Jo Taylor on 01384 471139.

Children in station visit

YOUNGSTERS from a summer club joined their teachers to experience life behind bars at a Black Country police station.

Officers opened the cell blocks to the pupils of Queen Victoria Primary School in Sedgley to talk about why arrests are made and how the person is dealt with when in custody.

Bosses hope the event will help improve relations with police and act as a deterrent to prevent children from getting involved with crime.

Sgt Richard Cruickshank, from the Sedgley and Gornal Neighbourhood Team, said: "We wanted to do something that would strike a real chord with the young children in the area. The children seemed to have had a very good day and the feedback is very encouraging."

Ian to bare his soul about problems growing up



Ian Thomas will tell his story

A MAN from Dudley will bare his soul to an international audience in Japan, telling the moving story of his life with over 30 foster families and his battle to beat drug addiction and feelings of rejection.

Ian Thomas, aged 27, spent seven years in foster care and is ready to speak about his experience to a conference called 'Let's Move Forward Hand in Hand for the Children' in Osaka from September 13 to 16.

Ian, now working for the Core Assets care organisation, will talk about his time as a troubled youngster, coping with fear and feelings of low self-esteem. He plans to write a book about his experiences, and said: "I was 10 when I went into care in the south of England because my parents couldn't look after me. I found school very difficult. I was dyslexic, and was

quite angry and felt let down. Sometimes my way of showing I was hurting was by negative behaviour." He went on to live with more than 30 foster families in the south of England.

And he credits his last foster mother, a woman living in the Isle of Wight recruited by Core Assets, with turning him around by offering him a 'nurturing' home.

Confidence

He added: "It is thanks to the support networks around me - my brilliant foster mother, Jane, who stuck with me during my first two years in care with Core Assets, and the encouragement from staff - that has enabled me to turn my life around. I am grateful to those who believed in me, helping me to regain my confidence and to talk openly about my life."

His speech to the International Fostering Care Organisation conference will recount his journey, including his struggle to overcome drug addiction, poor education and lack of school attendance, to leading professionals in child welfare from across the world.

After a year of travelling across Canada, Australia the Far and Middle East, he has now landed a job as a project officer with Core Assets. Core assets has 60 offices across the UK, as well as 20 overseas bases.

It estimates there is a 9,000 shortage of foster carers in this country, and is trying to attract more people with the patience, understanding and determination to look after children. Anyone interested in fostering should visit www.coreassetsfostering.com, phone 0800 023 4561 or join Core Assets on Facebook.

Cyclist with no helmet died following collision with car

by Louise Jew

A CYCLIST was riding fast at night - without a helmet or lights and wearing dark clothes - when he collided with a car, causing severe head injuries and leading to his death, an inquest heard.

The motorist whose vehicle collided with 24-year-old Lee Stead broke down as she described the tragic accident, saying she had no chance of avoiding hitting him.

Lee's parents, Neil and Debra, with whom he lived in Park Crescent, Stourport, faced the agonising decision of letting doctors turn off the life support system of their only son three days after the accident, which happened in Vernon Road at about 10.20pm on May 11.

Teaching assistant Samantha Roberts told the Stourport inquest she was driving back from a 60th birthday at Stourport Cricket Club, with her 10-year-old daughter also in her car, and there were vehicles parked on either side of Vernon Road at about 10.20pm on May 11.

Mrs Roberts said: "In the corner of my eye I saw this figure in black. I slammed on the brakes. There was a Transit van on the right and cars parked on the left and I had nowhere to go.

"He was riding very, very fast and before I knew it he hit the bumper, bonnet and windscreen and landed on the pavement."

Mrs Roberts' husband Lloyd, who was following behind and was qualified in first aid, began trying to save Lee's life. She sobbed as she said: "I was screaming 'Oh my God, oh my God' and my daughter had got out of the car - and Lloyd screamed at us to get back in the car."



Head injuries - Lee Stead

She estimated she was travelling at 25mph and police vehicle examiner Michael Saunders confirmed her Renault Scenic could not have been going faster than 30mph and had no faults.

Mrs Roberts said a breath test at the scene had shown a 'zero' alcohol reading. Mr Stead underwent surgery at Birmingham's Queen Elizabeth Hospital but consultant in critical care Dr Laura Tasker said the injuries to his brain were 'unsurvivable' and he died at 7.55am on May 14.

Worcestershire Senior Coroner Geraint Williams concluded that it was an accidental death. He said: "This was simply an accident with appallingly tragic consequences."

Family roped in to win host of offers



Caroline Painter looks on as Eve, David, Jesse and Jude Painter try out the ropes course at Quest at Merry Hill

A FAMILY is celebrating after being chosen from 210 applicants for a VIP role at the Merry Hill shopping centre. David and Caroline Painter and their three children Jude, aged nine, Eve, eight and Jesse, five, will advise bosses on how to make the centre more fun for families.

And as their 'salary', the family from Wombourne will receive a host of goodies throughout the year including a £300 gift card, a meal out every season, unlimited access to attractions such as the cinema and Quest, Krispy

Kreme doughnuts on their birthdays and a family VIP parking space. The family had impressed managers with their application, which saw them write 150 words on why they would be perfect for the role.

Mrs Painter, 39, who works at Compton Hospice, in Wolverhampton said: "We heard about the competition and thought we would give it a go."

She added: "We're absolutely thrilled to have been appointed - we know the competition was fierce and with the fantastic salary we're not surprised.

We can't wait to get started." Their jobs could range from choosing children's characters to visit the centre or deciding who should switch on the Christmas lights.

Kelly Reed, senior marketing manager at Merry Hill, said: "We were very impressed by their emphasis on the importance of family time. With our popular parent group Mummy Mornings, fantastic parent rooms, kids' facilities and brilliant calendar of family events we're constantly looking to improve the family experience."

NEWS in brief

Estate all set for litter event

A COMMUNITY litter pick is due to take place on a Dudley housing estate. The Ellowes Hall and area Tenants and Residents Association is organising the event for September 21.

The group is appealing for volunteers to meet members at Ellowes Hall School, Stickley Lane, Lower Gornal at 9.30am. The litter pick will take place until 1pm and the association is asking anyone who has some time to spare to join in. Volunteers of all ages are welcome.

Councillor Steve Waltho, cabinet member for housing, said: "It is excellent to see the Ellowes Hall and area TRA arranging this litter pick on the estate. This litter pick will help make the area a cleaner and safer place for all residents."

Bags, high visibility jackets and gloves will be provided. Children should be accompanied by an adult.

Speed campaign launch for village

A CAMPAIGN has been launched to put the brakes on drivers speeding near homes in a Black Country village.

Calls have been made for improved measures along Cotwall End Road, in Lower Gornal, near to its junction with Grafton Gardens.

Councillor Tim Wright said he had received a number of complaints about speeding motorists from concerned residents.

He is now petitioning the council for a speed advisory sign along the route urging drivers to slow down. Councillor Wright said: "The problems are taking place in a mainly residential part of Cotwall End Road and residents are very concerned."

Rock festival for fossil fans at hall

THE popular Rock and Fossil Festival returns to Dudley on September 28 and 29, at Dudley Museum and Art Gallery and Dudley Town Hall.

The council-run festival is the largest fossil event in the Midlands and features stalls selling rocks, fossils, minerals gems and jewellery alongside a fascinating series of talks and activities for families.

Admission is £2.60 for adults, £1.60 for children aged four to 15 and £8 for a family ticket which admits two adults and three children. Under-4s go free.

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NEWS

THE BEST OF PETER RHODES



WE WILL not go to war. Parliament stood up to the Government. The anger, suspicion and fears of the British people were brilliantly expressed by our elected members in some fine speeches and the Prime Minister wisely backed down. This is how the House of Commons is supposed to work, but rarely does. Thursday night's vote was like a cruise missile. No-one saw it coming.

□□□□□□□□

AFTER the enormous and enduring cock-ups of Iraq and Afghanistan, we should have learned enough by now to leave Syria well alone. Syria is not some clapped-out house of cards like Saddam's Iraq or Gaddafi's Libya. Syria has an army which is still fiercely loyal to President Assad. It is three times as big as the British Army and is equipped with some extremely deadly Russian hardware. Syria has allies including Hizbollah and Iran who may soon have the technology to lob chemical warheads into Europe. Above all, the lesson of history in the Middle East is that when dictators fall, chaos follows and the last thing the locals ever feel is one iota of gratitude towards the West.

□□□□□□□□

TONY Blair is in favour of military intervention. He has clearly learned nothing.

□□□□□□□□

FOLLOWING my invitation to re-write classic lines in modern terms, a reader re-drafts the opening sentence of *Pride and Prejudice*: "It is a truth universally acknowledged that a single man in possession of a large fortune must be in need of a civil partner of either, or both sexual inclinations and be perfectly entitled to marry if they so desire".

□□□□□□□□

INCIDENTALLY, it is possible to buy versions of *Pride and Prejudice* in simplified modern English. Like, everybody knows that a dude wiv shedloads of money needs a missus, innit?

□□□□□□□□

WE HAVE just received our newsletter from the British Hedgehog Preservation Society. I can't help reflecting that when we joined, back in the 1980s, it had very few members but there were an awful lot of hedgehogs. Today the society has 12,000 members but there are very few hedgehogs. Curious.

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

Go-ahead is given for last stage of £2m plan

by Heather Large

THE FINAL phase of a £2 million sports and housing scheme in Halesowen has been given the go-ahead by council planners.

St Modwen has been granted planning permission for the scheme, which includes a new playing field and learning centre at Olive Hill Primary School.

The developer has already completed work on a new pavilion for Coombs Wood Cricket Club and is putting the finishing touches to new homes in Coombs Road. Dudley Council officers have now approved proposals for a new grass sports pitch, multi-use games area and an outdoor classroom at the school.

Under the plans, the sports pitch will measure 177ft by 88ft and there also be a hard-surfaced games area.

An early years learning centre will be created. The developer's planning application says: "The aim of the early years learning centre is to maintain the important balance between entertainment, fun and play, whilst stimulating children."

"The centre will be at the cutting edge of educational thinking by providing facilities to improve physical, intellectual, emotional and social development." The 'forest school' will allow pupils to have lessons outside and learn more about the plants and wildlife on the nearby Coombeswood Green Wedge.

The application has been approved by Dudley Council's officers and work must start within the next three years. Coombs Wood Cricket Club moved into its new £1 million pavilion earlier this year. It was built on a five-acre site off Stewarts Road, on the Coombeswood Green Wedge, and features meeting rooms, a bar, kitchen and changing rooms.

Meanwhile outside there is a pitch, some practice nets and a bowling green.

The club had outgrown its former clubhouse in Coombs Road.

Fun day faces of joy at centre



Kaitlin Hogan, four, with Happy Faces Children's Centre staff Lynne Carter and Anne-Marie Lawley

A CHILDREN'S centre in Rowley Regis has thrown open its doors and welcomed in new members as part of a fundraising family fun day.

More than 100 people packed in to Happy Faces Children's Centre in Windsor Road to enjoy a day of fun activities and information.

Staff put on their own activities which included hook-a-duck, face painting and a selection of tasty refreshments. Police and fire crews showed up to chat with parents and children.

The centre which provides day care, a nursery service and even baby massages was originally managed by Sandwell Council but lost its funding as part of council cuts and was taken over by the Murray Hall trust. Kate Winup, an early year's worker at the centre said: "Everybody who came had an excellent time and we saw a lot of new and old faces."

Money raised at the event will go towards the running of the centre.

Raider hid under bed to escape pursuers

A DRUNK burglar was caught red-handed when he was discovered hiding under a bed belonging to a pensioner who was away on holiday.

Matthew Harding said he entered the house in Envile Street, Stourbridge, believing it was derelict.

Harding, aged 25 and of no fixed address, had been involved in a fight and was trying to hide, but the judge at Wolverhampton Crown Court sentenced him to 26 weeks in prison.

He was found with cigarettes, mobile phones and torches while hiding under the bed, although it was in doubt as to what property actually belonged to the 66-year-old male occupier.

Prosecutor Alka Brigue told the court that an alarm went off and the police were notified.

"It was clear to police he was intoxicated at the time."

The burglary took place on March 30 and Harding took the case to trial at Dudley Magistrates Court after pleading not guilty.

Keen Civil talk

TEACHER Max Keen will dress up in character to speak to Stourbridge Historical Society about the English Civil War in Worcester-shire. The society hosts his talk at the Amblesote Room in Stourbridge Town Hall on September 19 at 7.30pm. For details call David Hickman on 01384 274014.

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Presenter in guide to waterways

BLACK Country-born writer and radio presenter Graham Fisher has launched a new online guide to the region's waterways and the role they played serving heavy industry.

The internet guide called The Crystal Canal is designed as a self-guided walk along the Stourbridge Canal.

It is the latest in The Royal Geographical Society's Discovering Britain series and examines the myriad of glass works and other industries from the perspective of the canal that runs right through it. Based on Mr Fisher's 2010 book *Jewels on the Cut*, the guide is available as a free audio or PDF download.

The PDF can be printed off as a hard copy and the author has also provided a voice soundtrack so that can be used as an audio guide. Visit www.discoveringbritain.org/walks/region/west-midlands/stourbridge-canal.html#tabbox for details.

Charity invite to walkies up hills

DOG owners are invited to go 'walkies' over the Clent Hills, near Halesowen, in aid of charity. The walk will start at Nimmings car park at 10am on September 29.

There will be a £6 donation fee for dog walkers.

Further information is available from the organiser, Sue Williams, on 01562 883834, ahead of the event.

Firms come forward to help raided day centre stay open

A COMMUNITY has rallied around to raise cash to reopen a Black Country pensioners' day centre and help it step up security after thieves targeted the site for the second time in a week.

Dozens of elderly people arrived for lunch at the Age Concern Day Centre, in Green Lane, Halesowen, alongside invited dignitaries in a show of support following the two attacks. The centre was forced to close after a break in.

Thieves stole food, cash and cutlery before urinating on anything they were unable to carry from the scene.

Over the Bank Holiday weekend, the town-based charity was targeted again by vandals who took a power washer and battery chargers from the centre's mini-bus.

Director Ken Turner has since raised almost £600 for repairs and extra security following the attacks, including £300 from Hickton Funeral Directors in Cradley Heath.

Immediately

He said: "The attacks on the centre were very disappointing, but what we have seen since is a community coming together to get this place back up and running as quickly as possible. It shows we will not be beaten and the vital support we receive locally. I'm delighted we have reopened, the centre is well used and important for all 120 users we get here a week."

Ross Hickton, director of Hickton Funeral Directors, gave £300 to the cause after reading about the raids in the Express & Star.

by Alex Ross

He said: "I felt quite sorry for what happened and we immediately looked to see what could be done to help - the £300 will be used to get the place up and running and improve CCTV."

"The centre is very good for the community. The older generation is struggling at the moment, but this centre helps feed them and keep them seeing their friends."

Halesowen and Rowley Regis MP James Morris was also at the event. He said: "I have always been a supporter of Age Concern and felt hurt when I saw what had happened to the centre."

"I came down to show my support for its reopening and backing for the centre's future work in the community - it is a real asset."

Police are still looking for the offenders involved in the two attacks.

Sergeant Martin Hall said: "The offence is unusual for the Halesowen North area where only one such crime was reported in July."

Trying for musical boost at event



Ready for the music festival in Hagley are 15-year-old fans Laura Trigg, left, and Taome Jennings with members of band Got The T-Shirt, from left, Carl Cook, Mitchell Craig and Al De Marco who are playing at the event

TRIBUTE bands paying homage to music greats such as Elvis, Oasis and Crowded House will take centre stage at a concert.

The outdoor event called Wassellstock is being held at Old Halesonians RFC, in Hagley. Organisers of

the event, which will be raising money for Stourbridge's Mary Stevens Hospice, said they hoped the event at the Wassell Grove site on Sunday would attract big crowds. The line-up will also include acts such as the Black Country's Goats

Don't Shave. Kidderminster's Got the T-Shirt and Bromsgrove singer-songwriter Dan Greenaway.

Admission is £5 for adults and free for children. The event will run from midday to 8pm and there is free car parking.

NEWS

in brief

Worker crushed after lorry rolled

A MAN was crushed to death when a lorry rolled into him and trapped him against a trailer at a recycling yard - after it was thought he left the hand-brake off while fixing a battery, an inquest heard.

Mark Shore, aged 42, is believed to have taken off the brake before plugging in and using a battery booster to start the engine at a yard owned by his employer R Davies Metals.

But after getting back out of the cab to remove the booster, the lorry moved forward down a slope in the yard in Smithy Lane in Pensnett and crushed Mr Shore against a trailer. He died from severe chest injuries.

At an inquest at Smethwick Coroners' Court last Wednesday, a jury concluded Mr Shore's death on June 21 last year was accidental.

Artists are urged to join in project

A COUNCILLOR from Cradley Heath is calling on budding artists to get involved with a new arts project in the area.

John Tipper is working with artist Fran Wilde on the Creative Cradley Heath project to combine the work of artists, writers and musicians.

The group has already won the support of various art groups including the Oaks Project in Cradley that provides art services to adults with learning disabilities. Email john.tipper@sandwell.gov.uk for details.

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NEWS FEATURE

IN MY VIEW

WITH
MARK
ANDREWS

AS I write this, there is a song swirling round at the back of my mind. Don't know who sang it, but it just won't leave my head.

Something about 'the marriage vow being very sacred'. Yes it's coming back now, something along the lines of "Come on, come on, let's stick together. You know we made a vow, not to leave one another, never."

Whose song was that? Dunno, it's on the tip of my tongue.

Meanwhile, in other news singer Brian Ferry, aged 67, has just split from his second wife, Amanda Sheppard, 30, having got married last year.

Now, who sang that song again?

WOULDN'T you have loved to be on duty at the police station in Stockholm when a man called in to report that he was intimidated by 'a group of drunk elks' who were in his home.

Now I'm sure the police in Amsterdam get calls like that all the time. Indeed there are probably certain parts of Wolverhampton where the natives are convinced they are in imminent danger from a herd of marauding wildebeest after a few too many herbal cigarettes.

But in Sweden? What's more, it seems, this really did happen. The man was apparently unable to enter his residence because he was being stared down by a rowdy bunch of elk that had got inebriated on fermented apples that had fallen from a nearby tree.

Police spokesman Albin Naverberg said the man had no option but to call the authorities as the animals posed a big threat.

"They can be really dangerous, they become fearless," Mr Naverberg told a local newspaper.

A line of defence which will no doubt come in handy if any Newcastle United fans find themselves in conflict with a police horse when they visit these parts in a couple of weeks.

DON'T you just love it when politicians try to show how they are down with the kids and in tune with the modern age?

First we have Nick Clegg, saying that two weeks' paternity leave for new fathers is 'an Edwardian relic', and has also been a considerable inconvenience to himself.

Of course it is. You will no doubt have heard about all those Edwardian miners coughing their lungs out beneath the ground, or the men working in the searing heat of the foundries and chainshops constantly saying "What we would really like is an extra four weeks' paid paternity leave."

Then we have Conservative MP Claire Perry saying that teachers need to get into the digital age and start teaching youngsters about porn on the internet.

I think she is concerned about the harmful effects porn has on teenagers, rather than a shortage of IT skills in accessing it, but it still seems remarkably naive.



A snowy scene at the Black Country Living Museum during filming



Paul Hollywood and Mary Berry - presenters of the highly popular cookery show

Museum's magical muffin past on show

The muffin man is not purely the stuff of fairy tales as The Black Country Living Museum proved when it was featured in the Great British Bake Off series. **DEBORAH HARDIMAN** reports

THE Black Country Living Museum was among the stars of the show when the heritage attraction played a part in the TV series the Great British Bake Off.

A film crew visited the museum earlier this year to film traditional muffin making techniques, with the footage used as a video feature during the latest episode of the contest.

Popular

Museum staff who appeared in the clip, screened last Tuesday, included curator of domestic and cultural life Clare Weston, who explained the historical side of the muffin alongside Rosalyn Crone, from the Open University.

Popular Mrs Weston, aged 39, who has worked for the attraction for two years, said: "They asked me to stand on the bridge and talk about how the muffin became popular in Georgian times from the late 18th century into the 19th century."

"It was very cold as we'd had heavy snowfall just the weekend before the film crew came."

"It took an hour to film my bit, but it's



Dave Harrison rings the bell to promote his wares as the Muffin Man

a very nice part of my job. Muffins were made with quite a cheap recipe and were popular with the labourers, and eventually became popular with the upper classes as a tasty afternoon snack."

Museum demonstrator Deryck

Noakes, who knows how to bake, was filmed showing how muffins would have been made in the Black Country using a recipe of yeast, flour, salt, lard or butter.

Mrs Weston explained the British muffin is different from the American

adaptation which is in effect a cake, such as the blueberry muffin.

"It's created using a yeast-based dough. It is served warm with butter. But it's not very easy to bake. You have to get it just right with the heat hitting it evenly."

"I think some of the contestants were having real problems in that section of the show and ended up with muffins with soggy centres."

"We showed how to bake it using a traditional griddle with a hoop handle which was hung over a coal fire range so that the heat from the fire would heat it from the bottom to the top."

"On the programme they used a Welsh bakestone which is available nowadays and sits over the hob," she added.

Dave Harrison, from Tipton and in his 60s, is a learning assistant at the museum and takes groups of school children round the site.

He was filmed carrying out muffin man duties.

Footage

Mr Harrison said: "They were asking for volunteers to take part in the filming. I put my name forward to help. I had to dress up in a muffin man outfit, carry muffins around and ring the bell."

"Like most of these things it takes several hours of footage and only two minutes of me made it on air."

"But it was amazing. While the show was on I got a text from someone I used to work with years ago who said, 'you're the muffin man, fame at last'."

"I was watching it at home. It's great publicity for the museum which looked great on the screen. It just underlines that it's a fabulous site for those types of heritage TV programmes."

Mr Harrison, a former journalist who was born in Tipton, has been working at the museum for four years.

THROUGH THE YEARS

1983...

TWO top gardeners left the opposition in tears at the West Midlands heaviest onion competition - but the winning vegetables did not touch the magic five-pound mark. Winner John Sifford of Halesowen said poor weather meant his winning onion was five ounces short.

AUSTRALIAN newlyweds Joe and Josie Willis flew 12,000 miles to celebrate their honeymoon - in Coseley. And the couple were given a typical Black Country welcome by Joe's aunt who made them a cuppa.

MEMBERS of the Sealed Knot charity society caused a stir in Staffordshire when they re-enacted the Battle of Hopton Heath. Roundheads and Royalists clashed on playing fields at Etching Hill High School during a friendly representation of the 1643 English Civil War battle.

1993...

A BABY born in Netherton was given a pampered start to life by no fewer than nine sets of grandparents and great-grandparents. Samantha Humphries was showered with affection as family members from across the generations gathered to celebrate.

STAFF at Wolverhampton Grammar School started a new scheme issuing "boredom warnings" to students before dull lessons. The idea was hatched by headteacher Bernard Trafford in an effort to keep pupils tuned in during tedious subjects.

LADY Godiva rode through the streets of Droitwich to protest at the planned closure of a hospital used by rheumatism sufferers. Kingswinford beauty queen Justine Mather wore a white swimsuit and long wig for her role as she headed a march organised by campaigners fighting to save Highfield Hospital.

2003...

PLANS for an £80 million shopping, leisure, office and housing development in Wolverhampton were axed after a planning inquiry. Council chiefs said the proposals for the Springfield Brewery site would hit existing shopping centres in the area.

A QUICK-THINKING aunt used first aid skills she picked up on a course 20 years ago to save a tot who was choking on a penny. Lorraine Garratt from Tipton unblocked 19-month-old Sheridan Wilkes' airways after the toddler swallowed the coin which became lodged in her throat.

A NEW skateboarding park officially opened in the centre of Wolverhampton. The facility was created within the Penn Road island after youngsters were driven away from the civic centre piazza following complaints from members of the public.

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LETTERS

Trawling through local history

RECENTLY on one of my road journeys through Wolverhampton, a town (now city) I have known and seen change since 1956 – I started to think of some of the historical articles that have been produced in the Express & Star, and sister paper Stourbridge Chronicle regarding architecture.

Many of the building changes are now glass and concrete of styles that can be found all over the world. Buildings that will not be around in 40, 50 or so years. The old London Midland Station was a favourite along with the GWR when train spotting. However with previous changes and the prospec-

tive new station we wait and see. Up and down the country old industrial premises are still being demolished for identical garage style work units – which brings me to the old Sunbeam Factory which has been empty for many years.

Some while ago I think the question was asked what could Wolverhampton do to bring in tourists, especially since our once world famous football team/club will not be bringing so many visitors to the city.

Wolverhampton in its past has also been famous for producing modes of transport – trains, cars, lorries, planes

and motorbikes (even boats for all I know) so why not make the old factory into a transport museum?

You recently ran an article on the number of old style telephone kiosks that are to be taken out of service. A year ago I contacted BT to see if they would donate one to a small preserved railway as they already had hundreds stockpiled that have been taken out of service. Their answer, £1,500 to purchase, and £600 for them to transfer on health and safety grounds. What will they do with them all? China, India?

WARWICK B DAVIS,
Farmercroft Road, Stourbridge.

We should box clever for energy generation

BRITAIN has no need for up to 10 new French-built nuclear power stations that, when we finally leave the EU, will leave our energy bills at the mercy of the French and leave an enormous toxic waste problem for the next generation.

The only reason we cannot continue to use our modern efficient coal generators is due to EU energy directives. But there is a free unlimited supply of clean fuel that can keep our generators turning: it's called Chinese cardboard boxes.

Practically everything we buy, from toasters, TVs, clothing, even food, now all comes from China in cardboard boxes and no matter how many we burn today more container ships full of boxes will arrive tomorrow. All we have to do is convert all power stations to burn the lovely free Chinese cardboard boxes.

GORDON FANTHOM,
Hinksford Gardens,
Swindon.

LETTERS to the Editor

POST

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Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number of the writer. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

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Fracking protesters missed power cuts

BACK in the 70s I remember the TV going off every evening before 10.30 to save power. I also remember all the power cuts due to electricity worker and miner strikes so I well remember what it is like to be without our major fuels! Sitting in the dark with no heating and only candles for light!

Recently I have seen many scenes on TV of demonstrations against fracking or attempts to remove oil and gas from deep below parts of British landscapes. It seems to me that many of these protesters are only teenagers themselves and do not remember what it is like to be without fuel – nor have they had to work to pay keep a family and pay a grossly exaggerated fuel bill caused by fuel imported from other countries!

Meanwhile MPs do not have this problem either, protesting at coal fired and nuclear fired power stations, but do not want wind turbines to spoil the land near them, but are quite happy when they get home to turn on the TV, the kettle and the heating and not worry where the power came from as long as it's not here and they can get some publicity and their faces on TV!

HELENA CAMWELL, Birch Crescent, Tividale.

Volunteers sought to help out hospices

HOSPICES in the UK cost millions of pounds to run each year. These institutions provide specialised and tailored care to patients, without asking for a single penny in return.

Services such as these, are made partly possible by an army of volunteers, who tirelessly give their time to raise funds and assist in whichever way they possibly can. Working in the community fundraising team for Acorns in the Black Country I know first-hand the importance of volunteers.

We are currently looking for individuals to join our community fundraising team. Volunteers from every walk of life are welcome. Call 01922 422 508, email: walsallfun@acorns.org.uk or visit www.acorns.org.uk/volunteering
SALLY INSLEY,
Community Fundraising Manager,
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NEWS

Fresh start for couple after market is closed

by Heather Large

TWO fruit and veg sellers have branched out to open their own shop following the closure of Brierley Hill's Concord Market.

Jeremy Thorpe and his wife Caireen have opened traditional farm shop Fresh Harvest in the town's Mill Street.

The couple had been running a business at the former indoor market for three and a half years.

But after market bosses announced in June that the centre was going to shut due to dwindling trade, they decided to set up on their own.

They have moved into a former bakery three weeks ago and said, so far, business was going well.

Mr Thorpe, aged 47, said: "It was a shock how quickly the market closed but it's been good for us to open our own shop."

Traditional

"We had a good customer base at the market so hopefully we can continue to have that in our new premises."

"It's a traditional farm shop with a large kitchen table in the middle of the shop and lots of wicker baskets."

"We try to source as much local produce as possible to support the local farmers and we also work with the seasons."

The couple are following in the footsteps of Mandy Merrick who moved her tea room business to Maple Row, off Mill Street. It had been a popular feature of the Concord Market in Brierley Hill for more than 20 years.

But Mrs Merrick decided the time was right to move Polly's Tea Room into a shop.

She took over the business four years ago after leaving a job in the



Owner Jeremy Thorpe, from Pedmore, at the new shop in Brierley Hill

licensing department at Dudley Council. Her business, which employs three, also has a kitchen at Myles Court, which provides food to 91 resident flats.

Owner of Concord Market Shane Birch-Bastock blamed the closure of the market on a drop in trade and an

exit of stallholders. Four stallholders handed their notice in just weeks before he announced it would shut.

Before it closed, he vowed to help the remaining stallholders move to other locations in the borough.

Mr Birch-Bastock also runs the market in Sedgley.

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Denture troubles? Unable to live life spontaneously?

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THERE'S seemingly an impossible amalgamation between glamour and dentures, but these unlikely descriptive bedfellows are increasingly being thrown together at a ground-breaking Dudley clinic.

Under the watchful eye of dentist Steven Burchell DipCDT RCS(Eng), founder of the Denture Clinic, based in North Street, hi-spec prescriptions are helping turn back the hands of time.

Recently, the practice has undergone a major refurbishment, with three disciplines - general dentistry (North Street Dental), implantology (Total Implant Solutions) and the prescribing and manufacturing of dentures (Denture Clinic) all under one roof.

Key to a £1m investment are two new ground-floor surgeries, an level main entrance at the rear, disabled-friendly facilities and a large car park with a drop-off point right outside the reception area. A champion for those who wear dentures, Steven has spent more than ten years campaigning to "break the taboo over false teeth."

He is evangelical about what new generation dentures can achieve.

"Dentures have traditionally never been associated with cosmetic



makeovers, but our high-quality prosthetics have quite literally taken years off some of our patients," he said.

"People have come to us with ill-fitting dentures, sunken cheeks and pinched lips and we have been privileged to transform their looks. Can dentures be glamorous? Emphatically, yes."

"We are on the cusp of development, so that those who entrust their smile to us can be sure they will be advised on best options."

Steven's work has attracted people from all walks of life, including a former SAS mountain warfare specialist, an airline pilot, a multi-millionaire with his own jet, health professionals and "ordinary

salt-of-the-earth people from the Black Country." The clinic's prosthetics, hand-crafted at laboratories at the Dudley and Wolverhampton practices, have also found satisfied patients from as far away as Spain and Portugal. And the secret of his success? A seamless service to clients, where clinical assessment and the crafting of prescriptions are all in-house.

"It's a simple formula," said Steven, "but it has allowed me to be fastidious about the quality and we will never compromise on best clinical outcomes."

He admitted that denture wearers are one of the most challenging groups to treat successfully.

"I believe many of them have had a bad deal for years, but we are in the vanguard of changing outcomes and hopefully changing some lives for the better too," said Steven.

Steven draws on more than 30 years' experience in all disciplines of dental technology to produce his hallmark "functional, natural-looking teeth."

Having completed his training as a dental technician and started his own laboratory, Steven enrolled on a three-and-a-half year CDT training course with the George Brown College in Toronto, Canada, to enable him to work in his dental discipline independently of a dentist.

Graduating with honours, Steven undertook a further year's study under the auspices of The Royal College of Surgeons.

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THE Denture Clinic is renowned for its natural look. Denturist Steven Burchell Dip CDT RCS (Eng), says: "Quality, traditional dentures can be hugely effective."

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Steven Burchell
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NEWS

Help little Luis live life to the full, say parents



Gemma Hickman with son Luis, who has severe learning difficulties and is unable to walk unaided, and father Zaq

A MOTHER has issued a rallying call for supporters to help with a fundraising event in honour of her young son who has a rare medical condition.

Gemma Hickman is appealing for help from businesses for the event in aid of her eight-year-old son Luis who has a genetic condition called chromosome 1p36 deletion.

He has severe learning difficulties and is unable to walk unaided or talk, although he does communicate through Makaton, a language programme which uses signs and symbols. The

mother of three from Stourbridge is hoping to raise cash for specialist equipment such as a tablet computer to help him communicate and a trike to aid his mobility. She said: "He is a very loving and sociable little boy who wants to access everything around him. Unfortunately because of his disabilities this is not always possible.

"Luis needs the assistance of technology and equipment and I have to say the NHS are great and have provided Luis with lots of vital equipment he needs. As you can imagine there are lots of things that simply cannot be funded by the NHS as there is just not

enough money in the pot. Specialist equipment is so expensive and can sometimes be 10 times the amount you would pay."

The fundraising event is at David Lloyd Leisure in Brierley Hill on October 6. Volunteers are being urged to come forward to buy and sell tickets, and tombola and raffle items are being sought. She is also appealing for firms to help with balloons and decorations and entertainment for children.

Anyone who is able to help can contact her by email at ghutton@hotmail.co.uk or by calling 07568137147.

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MEMORY LANE



Iron workers in Bilston in the late 19th Century. Production locally peaked at 752,000 tons in 1859



This mine in Princes End closed in 1919 because of flooding



The Hingley's anchor for the Titanic, which was made in Netherton



The Red House Cone in Wordsley, where clay was dug up

Fundamental elements that laid industrial foundations

COAL. Iron ore. Limestone. Fire clay. Casting sand. The five vital minerals beneath the Black Country that were essential to its rapid rise as one of the greatest manufacturing regions the world has ever seen.

Coal it was that burned Britain into industrial supremacy in the 19th Century. Burning in furnaces, factories, locomotives, steam ships and gasworks, it transformed the world, and in that remarkable change the thick coal of South Staffordshire was indispensable as a source of British power.

The Ten Yard Seam, as it was also called, was mined from at least the later 13th Century, when it could be dug out from the surface or close to it. Just 21 miles long at its furthest

by Carl Chinn

extent and generally between six and seven miles in breadth.

By the early years of the 19th Century it was reckoned that between 500,000 and one million tons of local coal were burned annually in the works and furnaces of the Black Country. Within a few years, the Ten Yard Seam was second only to the vast Northern Coalfield in national importance.

Eventually, small mines became uncompetitive and others were flooded by water. Many closed. Deeper collieries were sunk on the edges of the coalfield at Hamstead, Sandwell Valley and Baggeridge but they could not halt the swift fall of the Black Country from its pinnacle as a coal-producing region.

Production of iron locally peaked at 752,000 tons in 1859. This was an

amazing 22 per cent of British production and it was blasted from 190 furnaces. Such a huge amount of iron needed to be extracted from an even greater amount of iron ore; in 1866 it was reported that almost two million tons of iron ore was needed for the Black Country furnaces. Of this, more than half was mined locally.

However, the subsequent exhaustion of local supplies of both iron ore and coal led to a rapid decline in the number of furnaces to just 40 by 1880. Fortunately new jobs were created through the emergence of steel making in both Bilston and Brierley Hill – something which carried on strongly until the later 20th Century. The mining of limestone, too, was in marked decline. Often overlooked in its importance, limestone was highly significant.

The limestone under the Wrens

Nest and Castle Hill in Dudley was worked from at least the 1200s. By the 1860s these opencast mines were mostly worked out, after which the stone was fetched out via shafts sunk into the hill – as can be seen in the caverns today. It was then burned with coal in kilns, such as those still obvious at the Black Country Living Museum.

Most of the lime from Dudley was used as a flux in the smelting of iron to remove phosphorus, sulphur, and silica and other impurities. This led to the forming of the slag above the pure liquid iron. Lime was also important in the refining of steel and in the making of glass.

Much of the clay in the Black Country was particularly suitable for this purpose, allowing blast furnaces and glass kilns to withstand the fierce temperatures so necessary in the making of glass and the

smelting of iron. This clay was mined from local pits and was brought to the surface in slab form and 'weathered'. It was dug up mostly from Brierley Hill, Amblecote and Kingswinford.

Each town seem to be associated with some specialist trade that thrust its name onto the world stage. Netherton with its anchors. Cradley and Cradley Heath with their chains, plus Stourbridge and Brierley Hill with their glass.

And just as these products reached across the world so too did the names of the great concerns of the Black Country: Rubery Owen and Stewart and Lloyd's; Accles and Pollock's and Tangy's; Horsley Bridge and Chance's; the Bean and Kenrick's; Izon's and the Patent Shaft and Axeltree; John Thompson and Thomas Dudley Ltd.

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NEWS

Group puts its finishing touches to church plan

THE FINISHING touches are being put to plans for campaigners to take over a landmark church.

It would also see an agreement drawn up to help sacred treasures return to the building in the future.

St John's Church Preservation Group in Kates Hill, Dudley, is finalising arrangements to take over the church so members can carry out repairs.

They are currently in discussions with church commissioners about their proposals and hope to receive the go-ahead later this year.

Members want to keep the 173-year-old church building, which is described as 'a virtually intact Victorian church' as unaltered as possible but will restore some of the old features such as the lychgate.

They hope to eventually reinstall some of the historical items such as the windows, plaques, altar and worship artefacts, which were taken out of the church when it closed in 2002. The items are currently in the custodianship of the St John's congregation, which now meets elsewhere. But

by Heather Large

the preservation group hopes to bring them back to the church as and when they become available in future years.

Chairman Deb Brownlee said: "The future of historic artefacts associated with the historic church building is a very sensitive issue."

As a preservation group seeking to restore the church and lychgate historically intact, naturally we want to refit as many original items as possible and we have asked that a tracking process be put in place so that we can seek the return of items as they come available over the longer term."

The group is asking for pledges of funding from businesses, community groups and individuals. Anyone interested can email savestjohnchurch@hotmail.co.uk or by calling 07871 195042.

Nightmare cake is gone for a Burton



Jules Scholfield with the cake she made to mark Tim Burton's birthday, inspired by The Nightmare Before Christmas

BAKERS served up spectacular cakes as they took part in a world-wide celebration of film director Tim Burton's 55th birthday. The masterpieces were inspired by the film The Nightmare Before Christmas.

Jules Scholfield, who runs cake shop Marzipan Moon & Sugar Dust Stars in Lye, paid homage to Doctor Finklestein while her friend and home baker Sarah Russell, from Worcester, recreated the character Barrel. Her cake stands at around 20 inches high.

One hundred bakers took part in the celebration with all of the cakes unveiled on the Cakenweenie website at the weekend. Mrs Scholfield, aged 49, from Wolverley, said: "When we heard about the Tim Burton project it seemed a really good idea as we love his films."

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From here we cross the second of Scotland's grand rail bridges the 'Tay Bridge', which is over 2 miles in length affording passengers further spectacular views of Tayside and the 'Kingdom of Fife' at a fairly sedate speed. A break of up to around 2 hours is taken at Dundee. The station is highly for the main amenities. Dundee's most famous attraction is the research ship 'Discovery', the very ship in which Captain Scott and Ernest Shackleton sailed to Antarctica.

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NEWS

Whopper tomato crop is no tall story

A GARDENER is celebrating his green-fingered skills after his latest crop of tomato plants grew to more than 7ft tall.

Roy Wood, of Coseley, said he had been left stunned at the rate of their growth – with the plants so large they are now poking out of the windows of his greenhouse.

The 75-year-old retired engineer has been a keen gardener since he was a boy.

But Mr Wood said his latest batch of tomato plants was the largest yet – and revealed they are still continuing to grow.

Mr Wood said the seeds he used had come from tomatoes on his own dinner plate.

"I was eating the tomatoes and could see they were very high quality," he said.

"I planted them in my greenhouse and the results have been absolutely amazing."



Roy Wood, of Coseley, who is celebrating the success of his tomato plants

Shop developer hits out at planning officers' demands

A DEVELOPER wanting to open a home furnishing store out of a derelict pub in the Black Country has hit out at council planning officers over 'impossible' demands for his proposal.

Jon Thompson plans to spend £200,000 refitting the fire-wrecked former Round Oak pub in Dudley Road, Brierley Hill, before operating his family business shop inside.

The store would employ up to 10 people at launch and would regenerate a building last used as a pub more than 20 years ago. But Mr Thompson claims his planning application, submitted in May, has been held back by continuous demands from planning officers.



Jon Thompson, left, and Allan Cooper at the former Round Oak pub

An electric car charging port, parking for motorbikes and showering and changing facilities are among the requests for the shop from Dudley Council. Mr Thompson said: "I want to

bring back into use a terrible-looking building and boost business to this area of town – yet I am being treated like a Tesco Express. I don't see why so many problems are being found."

Mr Thompson submitted the planning application on May 8 and hoped to get approval in July. Now he has been told a decision is imminent. Councillor Judy Foster, cabinet member for regeneration, said: "All planning applications have to go through the normal legal process before being determined, and it is important to get this detail from the outset."

"We work closely with people to help them make sure all policy requirements are met before a decision is made. We are continuing to work with the applicant to ensure all matters are resolved as quickly as possible."



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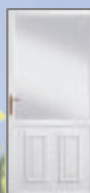
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NEWS

Tesco on track for recruits with fair

ABOUT 400 jobs will go up for grabs at Stourbridge's new Tesco supermarket, with an employment fair kicking off the recruitment drive. The firm is on track to open the new £50 million store in the Crown Centre, Stourbridge, by the end of this year.

Bosses have already held invitation-only employment events for long-term unemployed in the borough – but from September 26, jobs will be made available to everyone starting at the fair in Cradley Heath.

The event will be at the Salvation Army, in Meredith Street, from 11am to 3pm. It has been organised by Halesowen and Rowley Regis MP James Morris.

It is the second year Mr Morris has held the event – last year it was attended by more than 700 people.

Tesco decided to sponsor this event ahead of a recruitment drive for the new store in the town centre. Simon Peter, spokesman for Tesco, said: "These are promising times for Stourbridge."

Matthew Griffiths, community coordinator at Cradley Heath Salvation Army, said: "We are delighted to be hosting this event and hope that as many people as possible will come along and find the job that they are looking for."

Anyone wanting information on the event should call 0121 5506777.

Judge praises prolific thief for confessing to offences

A PROLIFIC thief who confessed to more than 100 offences has been jailed – but could be free in less than a year and has been praised by a judge for his honesty.

Dale Mowat's £32,000 crimewave only ended after he knocked at the door of a woman in Stourbridge Road, Lye, and asked her to order him a takeaway. She refused the bizarre request and moments later bravely grabbed hold of the 25-year-old.

Burglars used home dog flap to gain access

TWO burglars crawled into a house through a dog flap and stole hundreds of pounds of electrical items before making off in the family's £10,000 car, a court heard.

Simon Brookes, aged 21, clambered into the property in Pemberton Road, Coseley, through a hole measuring less than 1ft wide along with Joshua Owen, 20, while a mother and her two young children slept upstairs on June 2 at around 3am.

They took a laptop, cam era and mobile phone containing photos of the children, Wolverhampton Crown Court heard, and then drove away in the car using keys found in the house.

Brookes, of Tame Street, Bilston, had been released from custody for a previous offence just days earlier.

Judge Parker sentenced Brookes, who admitted burglary, to 21 months. Owen, of Old Fallings Crescent, Low Hill, who also admitted burglary had his case adjourned for a pre-sentence report.

She had spotted him breaking in to a neighbour's car, prosecutor Edward Soulsby told Wolverhampton Crown Court.

The unnamed woman grabbed hold of his legs and refused to let go despite the drug addict threatening to stab her with a syringe. Mowat was on bail at the time having been arrested three days earlier after being caught trying to steal from a hut at the Stourbridge Children's and Family Centre in Ford Road on June 3.

The serial criminal with 35 previous convictions for 58 offences then decided to take police on a drive round the area, pointing out the scene of the other unsolved crimes he had committed over two years, involving a total of £32,581 worth of valuables, the court heard.

Mr Paul Hiatt, defending, explained: "He sold all the property he stole and spent the money on drink and drugs. He wants to wipe the slate clean. On his release he intends to become a drugs counsellor."

Former sous chef Mowat, from Ridge Road, Stourbridge, who lost several fingers in an industrial accident in March 2011, admitted burglary, seven thefts and two attempted thefts from vehicles and asked for 94 other offences to be taken into consideration. He was jailed for a total of 22 months, but is likely to only serve half of that time actually behind bars.

Recorder Mark Wall QC told him: "Police did not know you were responsible for many of the crimes you subsequently admitted. They may never have been solved without your honesty."

Firefighting fun at nursery



Nursery nurse Rosie Lowe picks up little firefighter Amber Witcombe at Sandhill Day Nursery, Wombourne

A NURSERY in Wombourne held an emergency services day in order to raise money for Birmingham Children's Hospital.

Firefighters dropped in to talk to the children about their work and how to deal with an emergency. The event took place at Sandhill Day Nursery in Maypole Street.

More than 35 children and 10 staff turned up in emergency services fancy dress and took part in activities such as baking cakes, painting various pictures and building a cardboard fire engine. Some children at the nursery have been patients at Birmingham Children's Hospital due to being born prematurely or having a serious illness.

This inspired nursery staff to organise the event, which they said was a 'fun but educational day'. It was also hoped that it would raise awareness among the children about health and safety and what to do in an emergency situation. Staff said the youngsters were full of enthusiasm and interest when questioning the firefighters.

NEWS

in brief

Adult social care put the spotlight

A SERIES of workshops are due in Dudley to showcase adult social care services available. People will also be able to make suggestions for improvements they would like made or new services they would like to see.

Dudley Council is hosting three events – one is on Monday, between 2pm and 5pm at the Beacon Centre for the Blind, in Sedgley. There is also one on Tuesday between 10am and 1pm at The Mere Centre in Mere Road, Stourbridge.

The third is on Wednesday between 4pm and 7pm at Queens Cross Network in Wellington Road, Dudley.

Places can be booked at www.makingitrealindudley.gov.uk/events or by calling Jill on 01384 815130.

President starts in role at Rotary

THE new president of Kinvor Rotary Club has been appointed. Nick Geoghegan, who won the Kinvor Civic Society's award for services to the community through his dedication to brightening up the High Street with floral decorations, has taken up the position.

He has previous worked in accountancy, engineering and manufacturing and now works as an employer adviser with the DWP. Mr Geoghegan joined the Rotary Club in 2008 and has served as treasurer and vice-president.

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NEWS

Call for barriers rethink by traders with petition

Otters acting carrot fashion



One of Dudley Zoo's otters playing with a ball-shaped piece of carrot

JUGGLING otters at Dudley Zoo are causing quite a stir with their antics.

The playful creatures have been keeping visitors entertained by juggling with pebbles or ball-shaped pieces of carrot as they show off their dexterity. And their cute displays frequently turn up on various internet video sites.

The 13 Asiatic short-clawed otters are not trained to put on an act – but the juggling is good practice for handling slippery customers, in the shape of the fish they like to eat.

Their tiny claws are smaller than those of other otters and enhance their manual dexterity in dealing with their prey.

Zoo spokesman Jill Hitchman said: "The otters lie on their backs when they are in a juggling mood and pick up little pebbles, which they put on their tummies and roll around."

TRADERS have signed a petition demanding highways officials rethink a decision to install plastic barriers on a busy road in Dudley town centre. Around 20 business owners back the campaign.

They have signed up to voice concerns after red and white barriers were laid along a narrow stretch of Wolverhampton Street off High Street. Dudley Council bosses said the barriers were installed because of problems with parked cars on double yellow lines blocking the pavement and road. They say this caused heavy lorries to swerve up onto the opposite pavement cracking slabs and brickwork.

But traders say they were not fully consulted over the move and want urgent talks with the highways department at the council. Mohammed Sagor, who has run his mobile phone store Direct Link for 12 years, gathered a petition after becoming increasingly frustrated by the barriers which have been in place around three weeks.

Concerned

He said litter was now gathering around the barriers as road sweepers could not get close enough in order to clean the street properly. Mr Sagor said traders had received a letter in recent days detailing the action but he said it was too late after they had already been installed.

"We are getting no response from the council and I'm concerned they are not listening," he said. "There is litter collecting around here now which is not making the street look good for shoppers."

Avinash Kumar, who owns the Gala coffee lounge and takeaway said: "It has caused more disruption and is a hazard in the street. It has caused some bad feeling."

Dudley Council's transport boss, Councillor Khurshid Ahmed, said: "We have written to Mr Sagor and other traders in Wolverhampton Street to explain the work and we will monitor the situation before making a decision on a permanent solution as soon as possible."

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NEWS**Rags are riches for pageant win**

Beauty pageant winner Alexia Bates, aged 12, wearing the dress bought from the Birmingham rag market

Alexia in the pink as worldbeater

A SCHOOLGIRL from Dudley has been crowned the winner of a glitzy worldwide beauty pageant in America – wearing a £20 dress bought from a rag market.

Alexia Bates, aged 12, beat more than 30 finalists to add the Perfect Pageants title to her 16 victories in the UK. Remarkably, Alexia has won every single competition she entered since her first pageant 18 months ago.

She travelled to Orlando in Florida on August 3 with her mum April Bates, 39, after winning the European leg of the contest earlier this year. And while

by Alex Ross

most girls wore outfits their parents had splashed out hundreds of pounds on, Alexia proudly sported a pink princess dress purchased from an indoor market in Birmingham and decorated with jewels bought off ebay. And after impressing the judges the rags-to-riches youngster was crowned the world's perfect pre-teen winning a trophy and £1,282.

Mother April, who lives with Alexia as well as her other daughter Raven, 17, and twin sons Jonah and Noah, five, said: "I'm very proud of her. She has only been competing for the last 18 months. Everyone thinks it is all glam-

orous and expensive but it is what you make it. I'm not one who splashes out or wastes money. When it comes to Lexi's outfits, a lot of them are either bought off ebay or we create an outfit of our own."

The pageants have even inspired Alexia to want to become a fashion designer when she grows up and April believes they have improved her confidence. The teaching assistant said she disagrees with the negative publicity normally associated with the competitions. She added: "I think a lot of criticism comes from people who are only basing it from shows they see with the little girls. Lexi does wear make-up but it is age appropriate."

Husband was found hanged in loft space

A YOUTH team football coach who was hailed for his work with youngsters was found hanged by his wife at their home, an inquest heard.

Father-of-two Darren Owen, who managed Stourbridge Football Club Under-11s, had recently been promoted to the role of senior operations manager with BT, the hearing in Walsall was told.

His wife of nine years, Rebecca Owen, said that her 36-year-old husband had become worried about work in the months leading up to his death on December 8.

She said she had rushed home from work after receiving a call from him saying: "I love you but I can't do this anymore."

Mr Owen, who also leaves behind his two sons, Luke and Joe, was found hanged from the loft space at their home in Thoresby Croft, Dudley. Speaking about her husband during the inquest, Mrs Owen said he was a 'confident' and 'intelligent' person.

She said he was committed to his job with BT and had progressed from apprentice to senior operation manager in 15 years. She said he had become concerned about what was expected of him in his new role after the recent promotion.

Mrs Owen said he started working from home a lot. Delivering the conclusion Mr Owen killed himself, Senior Coroner Robin Balm-ain said: "There were clearly no suspicious circumstances."

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NEWS

Delight after recycling waste scheme is binned

CAMPAIGNERS have been celebrating after a controversial proposal to build a waste recycling plant in the Black Country was refused – but they admitted their battle may not be over yet as the company behind the scheme considers an appeal.

More than 20 people arrived ahead of Dudley Council's development control meeting to voice their protest against the scheme planned for Brierley Hill by Clean Power Properties at the Council House in Priory Road last night.

More than 350 people had signed a petition against the plan. Ward councillors also opposed the application as well as Dudley South MP Chris Kelly.

Businesses

Inside the meeting held last Tuesday, Tim Lee, aged 63, of Seagers Lane, told councillors on the committee the plant would bring traffic and odour misery to residents, already blighted by problems of waste storage at Refused Derived Fuel Ltd in Moor Street.

He said: "Now the Brierley Hill area is in danger of becoming the waste dump of the West Midlands. Families won't want to move to the area, nor will new businesses want to start up here."

As the vote was announced, residents in the public gallery of the council chamber cheered, but many afterwards feared an appeal by the company.

Mr Lee said: "I worry this will change nothing for Clean Power Properties – the company has shown little consideration to local residents so far, by putting the plant forward in the first place and then sticking with the application despite objections."

Justine Chamberlain-Page, 42, of Church Street, said: "It's good news



Councillors Zafar Islam and Rachel Harris, and spokesman Tim Lee with residents protesting about the proposed recycling plant in Brierley Hill

today, we only hope that is the end of it now, but there is no guarantee.

"I'm pleased the councillors have listened to our concerns and taken the right action. It is a waiting game now."

Reverend Steve Martin, vicar at St Michael's Anglican Church in Brierley Hill, said: "Clean Power need to realise this is a community which does not wish for their waste recycling plant. I hope this sends the message loud and clear."

Clean Power said they would now explore their next steps. Spokesman Dominic O'Donnell said: "We are understandably very disappointed in the Development Control Committee's decision."

"Clean Power has worked hard throughout the application process to answer all of the questions asked by local residents, councillors and officers about our proposals, including on the

issue of odour. We have detailed how the Environment Agency – who would regulate and monitor the operation of the site – raised no objection to our proposals. We would like to thank those within the community who have supported us. We will now explore our next steps."

It took councillors less than an hour to refuse the planning application on the grounds that the facility would disrupt people living nearby with increased traffic and smell.

The decision was made despite the Environment Agency not objecting against the plant in favour of stringent conditions laid down on operations.

Committee chairman Councillor Qadar Zada said: "I can see why a development like this would be beneficial. What I can't see is how it would be beneficial to the people of Brierley Hill."

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NEWS

Planning chiefs get care home proposals

LONG-AWAITED plans to build a 62-bed care home in the Black Country have finally been submitted to planning chiefs.

If proposals submitted by Sandwell Community Caring Trust are approved the new home in Harvest Road, Rowley Regis, will provide day care and assisted living for people aged from 18 to 65 who have physical and learning disabilities.

The site will be monitored 24 hours a day by CCTV and will be equipped with the latest care equipment including bed hoists and specially designed furniture. Each room will come with its own en suite facilities.

Abandoned

Once plans are approved work is expected to be completed in 18 months and residents from former council-run homes will be moved in soon after. It comes after the same trust abandoned plans to build a second care home in favour of taking over a newly-built care home in West Bromwich.

The Sandwell Community Caring Trust had originally planned to embark on a five-year building scheme in 2011 which was expected to cost £10 million, but have instead brought their plans forward with the purchase of a new 62-bed care home in Hall Green Road, Stone Cross.

David hopes to solve mystery of lost Black Country sundial

A FORMER grammar school pupil is trying to solve the mystery of a missing sundial which was a well-known landmark in a Black Country town for decades.

David Humphries attended Stourbridge Grammar School, now King Edward VI College, between 1948 and 1954. The 76-year-old said in 1952 the school had celebrated the 400th anniversary of receiving its charter with staff and pupils raising money to purchase the sundial to mark the occasion.



David Humphries with press cuttings on the sundial



An E&S letters page picture of the sundial in 1952

For many years it stood at the top of Lower High Street, near to the town's historic clock and opposite the Mitre Pub.

And Mr Humphries, who now lives in Sedgley, said a recent trip to Stourbridge had brought back memories of the sundial and he had wondered what had happened to it.

His search has revealed the sundial was still in place until the 1980s when he believes it was removed for the building of the Crown Centre.

But his investigations have so far failed to reveal the eventual fate of the sundial and he is now hoping someone will come forward with information. "When the sundial was unveiled in 1952 it was a really major occasion with the Mayor attending the ceremony," he said.

"I have a picture of the sundial still in place in the 1960s however it had lost the gnomon, the part which casts the shadow. I also have information it remained at the top of High Street until 1981. Indications seem to be it was removed when the Crown Centre was built later in the decade.

"To be honest I very much doubt the dial is still in existence after so many years but it would be absolutely fascinating to know what happened to it."

Hat's all for museum tea party



Charlotte Lodge, at Broadfield Glass House Museum

YOUNGSTERS made sure they were not late for the Hatter's Tea Party as they enjoyed a fun-filled day at a Black Country attraction.

Creative youngsters even made their own fancy dress outfits for the event held at Broadfield House Glass Museum, in Kingswinford.

Among those who dressed up for the day was Charlotte Lodge, aged seven, from Wombourne, who sported her own home-made hat.

Pleasurable

Families laid out picnic blankets to enjoy lunch in the grounds of the glass museum.

Dudley Council's culture chief, Councillor Tracy Wood, said: "With crafts, a trail and of course the museum and its garden to explore this is a pleasurable way to spend a summer afternoon."

Broadfield House Glass Museum is open Tuesday to Sunday from midday to 4pm and admission is free.

For more details call 01384 812745.

NEWS

in brief

Smokers at flats land big court bills

TWO high rise flats residents caught smoking in the lifts of a tower block in Brierley Hill have landed court bills totalling more than £800.

Dudley Magistrates heard they were seen smoking in the lifts at St John's Court, Lower Derry Street, in January. Both have been served with fixed penalty fines for £50, reduced to £30 if paid within 14 days.

Tara Ash, aged 21, pleaded guilty to smoking in a smoke free place by letter to the court and was fined £200 with £295 court costs and £20 victim surcharge.

Natalie Williams, 19, admitted the same offence and was fined £54 with £295 costs and £20 victim surcharge.

Family day out is a walk in the park

A DAY of events for dogs and their owners is being held in a Black Country park. All About Dogs will be at Warley Woods Park in Smethwick on Sunday, between 11am and 4pm.

Organised between the park's trust and the RSPCA, the centrepiece of the day is the family dog show, with categories such as Waggiest Tail and Best Golden Oldie.

There will also be flyball demonstrations and the chance to have a go with your dog. A Doggie Dash competition will run all day and there will be stalls to browse round.

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*The "from" price and price bands vary for each show – see brochure for details.

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MUSIC NEWS

Getting a musical insight into Dan's state of mind



Dan Whitehouse

THIS may only be Dan Whitehouse's second full album, but you very quickly realise he has much more maturity and experience of creating music and songs than just two CDs can indicate.

Dan, originally from Wolverhampton now working mostly from Birmingham, has done his time, mainly on the folk circuit.

The opening track, A Dream That's Floating Out To Sea, is precise in its lyrics and hypnotic in the throbbing beat it carries. Next,

Reaching for a State of Mind Dan Whitehouse

A Light, is much more commercial; followed by Come to Me which has a flavour of early U2. The River is a really stylish track and perhaps more than any other showcases Dan's vinyl smooth voice.

This is followed by The Climb which seems almost like The River part two, but this track does focus a little more on Dan's skilled guitar playing.

Arguably one of the best tracks on the album is Chasing Paper, a brooding and emotive track, with vocals similar to Bono.

Something in the Way is a haunting and ethereal track and in similar vein Why Don't We Dance? is a gorgeous song and is perhaps Dan at his best, at least on this album. His distinctive sound is accented wonderfully by the lone notes of the piano.

Reaching for a State of Mind is released on October 7 on Tiger Dan Records and will be officially launched by Dan and full band on September 29 at The Crescent Theatre, Sheepcote Street, Birmingham. B16 8AE

Doors open 6pm. Call 0121 643 5858.

Precise playing with traditional folk roots

Runes - Whalebone
WHALEBONE is made up of excellent musicians who are clearly experts at their craft. You only have to listen to the first track, Origins, on their latest and fourth album Runes, to realise how accomplished, finely attuned and in touch with the sound they create, they are.

The Shropshire band comprises Steve Downs, on guitars, mandolin and percussion, Charlotte Watson on guitar and percussion and Sarah Ibberson on fiddle and cello. Whalebone do not really

do vocals, they concentrate purely on the music and that attention to detail shows in every track on the album, which come from a weird and wonderful collection of inspirations not least of which is Mog's Reel which originates from Downs' Mini car.

The guitar playing on this and every track is precise, crisp and while paying homage to the traditions of folk somehow has the clean construction of a modern sound. It is released on label Two Wild Women on September 15 visit www.whalebone-music.com



Whalebone from left Charlotte Watson, Steve Downs and Sarah Ibberson

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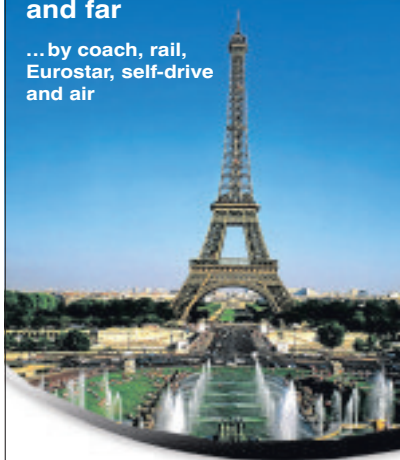
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by Mark Andrews

AFTER years of being overlooked or derided by television executives, the **Black Country** is finally being taken seriously as a drama setting.

Peaky Blinders, set in Birmingham's criminal underworld during 1919, will become the latest of several period dramas filmed at the Black Country Living Museum when it reaches our screens next Thursday.

And unlike the days of Crossroads or Auf Wiedersehen Pet, when the only references to the West Midlands came in the form of hammy accents and the odd place name crowbarred into the dialogue, the new series starring Batman actor Cillian Murphy will feature several identifiable locations.

Much of the filming for Peaky Blinders, named after a mob of sharply dressed gangsters who conceal razor blades in the peak of their tweed caps, took place at the museum.

Popular

It follows on from Dancing on the Edge, a jazz-age murder mystery, and WPC 56, a police series set in the 1950s, which were also filmed at the site in Dudley.

Alan Apperley, a media expert at Wolverhampton University, is not surprised the area is becoming increasingly popular as a setting for period drama, saying that locations such as the Black Country Living Museum are perfect for such productions. "It's like a ready-made film set," he says. "There are lots of stately homes around, but these working-class period settings are becoming increasingly scarce, as they have all been lost to redevelopment."

The Severn Valley Railway was also used for filming scenes of Dancing on the Edge, and WPC 56 featured scenes which were shot at Himley Hall, and having such attractions close together is another important factor in choosing film locations.

Black Country Living Museum director Clare Byers says talks are



The new BBC period drama Peaky Blinders, starring Cillian Murphy, left, has been filmed at the Black Country Living Museum in Dudley

Attraction ideal for period drama crews

already taking place about the prospect of a second series of WPC 56 being made at the museum, and she believes the film crews will become an increasingly common presence at the site.

"The Black Country Living Museum is a producer's dream, with its array of Victorian buildings, old artefacts and traffic-free environment," she says.

Mike Hobson, the producer of WPC 56, agrees, saying that the beauty of the West Midlands is that there are so many suitable locations within easy reach of one another.

"It's like a Hollywood backdrop, there are a wealth of locations suitable for filming," he says.

"The Black Country Museum was ideal, it worked beautifully well with that brilliant street of shops, with the old motorcycle shop fitting in with the period."

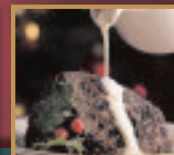
"We filmed a scene on the car park behind Dudley Zoo. The only problem was the noise from the monkeys."

A second series of WPC 56, which follows the fortunes of a young policeman struggling to overcome the prejudices of a male-dominated environment, could open up the prospect of more familiar landmarks appearing on our screens. Hobson said the grounds of Himley Hall, with their Capability Brown landscaped gardens, could well feature in a second series.

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CLUB NEWS

Butcher to meat the ladies

Loyal toast to guild and guest speaker

SHARESHILL WI

PRESIDENT Margaret Beppard welcomed everyone to the July meeting and hoped they were all enjoying the warm weather.

Member Judy Nugent was congratulated on her emerald award from the Blood Transfusion Service for so far donating 80 pints of blood. Dulcie Clewley and Margaret Matthews were both wished a speedy recovery after their recent falls.

Thanks went to Federation chairman Denise Moreton, who represented the WI at the Cardiff AGM, for the comprehensive report on the meeting which was summarised by the president. The Eating Club met at Bantock House; The Darts Club are still practising and the Craft Club provided an exhibition of some of their work for members to enjoy in social time.

Speaker was Helen Seales who talked about the Linus Project, a volunteer organisation aiming to provide a sense of security and comfort to sick and traumatised babies, children and teenagers through the provision of new homemade patchwork quilts and knitted/crocheted blankets.

In August, the weather behaved itself for the annual summer saunter which was enjoyed by all who took part, as was the meal at The Terrace which followed.

The next speaker will be famed local butcher Alan Bennet and there will be a sales table of preserves and produce.



Lady toastmaster Marion Canning was the afternoon's guest speaker

WEST MIDLANDS FEDERATION OF TOWNSWOMEN'S GUILDS

THE federation held its annual lunch at the Mill Hotel, Alveley, in June. After grace by Win Willetts, an excellent meal followed and was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

The loyal toast to Her Majesty the Queen was given by Jean Williams. Margaret Tew gave a toast to the guilds, then Jen Kerrison responded on behalf of the guilds.

The speaker for the afternoon was Marion Canning, one of the few lady toastmasters, now retired, who gave a very interesting and amusing talk about her career as a toastmaster and the many amusing things that had happened to her during that time.

Three guild members won raffle prizes. There are a few dates for members' diaries, the first of which will be the harvest supper at Wollaston village hall on October 9.

Arts and crafts secretary Jill Attwood has organised a card-making dabble day at Norton Community Association on October 12. An invitation has been received from Birmingham Federation regarding an event on November 6 entitled 'Wish you were here'. Several members will be attending.

The final event of 2013 will be the carol service on December 14 at St Thomas's Church, Market Street, Stourbridge.

Old buildings in the picture

AT THE August meeting, the society welcomed Tim Bridges for his talk on 'Victorian & Edwardian Buildings of Birmingham and the Black Country'.

Tim is the local conservation officer for the Victorian Society and showed wonderful pictures of architectural features of many Victorian buildings in Birmingham.

KINGSWINFORD AND DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

These included St Martins Church in the Bull Ring, the council house and Town Hall, together with views of pubs, libraries, schools, swimming baths and other public buildings. Reference was also made

to renovation work at the Grand Hotel in Colmore Row which will maintain the street's Victorian look.

Jewellery Quarter views included Gun Proof House, indicating the city's industrial past.

star★extraTRAVEL

VIETNAM and Cambodia

The beautiful country of Vietnam is a mosaic of mist-shrouded mountains, vibrant green forests, a patch-work of rice paddies and pristine white beaches, whilst its villages and cities are custodians of the culture and monuments of a unique 2,000 year old civilisation.

In the past few years Vietnam has opened its doors to the world and much has changed. Today, in one of the world's last communist countries, the motorcycles and western dress of the youth happily co-exist with orange-clad Buddhist monks and political posters from a different era.

On this 16-day tour you will visit Hue, one of the country's most beautiful small towns and the former imperial capital. Here you will be able to see the amazing Citadel and its imperial Forbidden City, as well as the magnificent seven-storied Thien Mu pagoda, a working Buddhist shrine.

Contorted by years of erosion, explore the staggeringly beautiful rock formations of Halong Bay, a UNESCO World Heritage site from on board a converted Chinese junk. Then in Saigon you will be taken on a visit to the Cu Chi tunnels, a complex underground network which provided a base for the Vietcong from which to attack US forces. You will see the tunnels themselves and examples of the many mantraps and stake pits which protected them.

The overwhelming image of Vietnam is that of a country blessed with extraordinary beauty and the friendly Vietnamese always courteous and proud to show of their wonderful country.

In Cambodia you can experience the haunting soft morning light rise over the eerie temples of Angkor. Then later discover the huge fortified 13th century city of Angkor Thom, with its five monumental gates, and 300ft wide moat - its centre containing one of Angkor's most remarkable sites, the temple of Bayon.

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What's On! Halesowen

Newman stages a return



New tour – Rob Newman

COMEDIAN, journalist, novelist and activist Rob Newman kicks off a brand new tour this month and will stop off in Wolverhampton and Birmingham.

After a seven-year absence from the stage, Rob Newman's Theory of Evolution begins its 22-date tour on September 12. It follows a sell-out London run.

Challenge

In the show, the funnyman details the 150-year controversy in evolutionary theory. His compelling and comical challenge to dominant theories promise to not only make audiences laugh, but to also leave them questioning life as they know it.

Newman made his name on The Mary Whitehouse Experience and as comedy partner to David Baddiel.

He appears at the Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton on September 22 (call 0870 320 7000) and the Mac, Birmingham on October 19 (Call 0121 446 3232).

Strictly easy step to win tickets for charity show



IT'S Strictly Dancing with a difference and is guaranteed to put a spring in the step of six deserving charities.

Building on the success of their recent charity events Punjabi Wolves have organised Strictly Dancing with Wolves, a twist on the popular TV reality series. And a host of local personalities including, ex-Wolves player Mel Eves, Big Brother contestant Deana Uppal, BBC reporter Laura May McMullan, five-time world kickboxing champion Kirk 'Fire' Walker, Miss Teen Wolverhampton, Sasha Lyttle and other willing novice individuals.

They will be teaming up with local dance schools from around the Midlands to compete in the competition on Friday, September 27 at Wolverhampton's Civic Hall. And you could be there – the Chronicles are offering 10 readers the chance to win a pair of tickets.*

Dance schools taking part will be Zig Zag Dance Factory (Wolverhampton), Dance Warehouse (Birmingham), Premier Dance School (Stoke-on-Trent), Dance Magic (Wednesbury) and Eminence Dance Works (Dudley).

Executive

This event is set to raise awareness and funds for six charities supported by Punjabi Wolves – Promise Dreams, Leukaemia & Lymphoma Research, Queen Elizabeth Hospital Birmingham Charity, Royal Centre for Defence Medicine (RCDM), India Project & The Royal Wolverhampton Hospitals NHS Trust.

Ticket prices start from £12 for balcony seating, £29.50 for executive seats including a three-course meal and for those wanting a more VIP experience up close to the stars on the dance floor, £39.50. To book your tickets, email news@punjabiwolves.co.uk or call Midland Box Office: 0870 320 7000.

* To be in with a chance of winning a pair of tickets simply answer the following question?

What is the price of the VIP experience?
Send answers to Strictly Competition Chronicle editorial, 51-53 Queen Street, Wolverhampton WV1 1ES. Closing date: Thursday, September 12. Usual rules apply. Editor's decision is final.



Mel Eves practising with Laura Fox from the Zig Zag Dance Factory

Nizlopi are digging in to festival

NIZLOPI may sound like an anagram but they are responsible for the huge cult hit JCB Song.

They will be bringing their particular brand of music to the Stourbridge Folk Festival on Sunday.

Also at the festival which is being staged at the Redhouse Glass Cone, High Street, Stourbridge are local legends The Bushbury Mountain Daredevils, who are celebrating their 20th Anniversary Reunion.

Talented Stourbridge guitarist and singer/songwriter Sunjay Brayne is also on the bill along with Rory McLeod, Nick Harper, Kim Lowings & The Greenwood and Dirty Old Folkers.

Tickets are £22.50 and for more information visit www.katiefest.co.uk



Stourbridge singer songwriter Sunjay Brayne

Lifting the lid on Jam classic LP

THE music of the mods and classic anthems of the new wave punk scene will soon be pounding out at two key Midland venues.

The Jam bass player Bruce Foxton and his band From The Jam will be performing the classic album All Mod Cons in its entirety at Birmingham Town Hall on September 19, then The Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton Civic Centre, on December 12.

The gigs are part of a three month tour marking the 35th anniversary of the seminal album's release in 1978 which spawned enormously influential tunes such as Down In The Tube Station At Midnight and A Bomb In Wadour Street. Bruce says: "The energy in rehearsals is great and we're really looking forward to getting back on the road."

The Jam exploded onto the punk scene in 1977 delivering their ferocious mission statement – debut single In The City – quickly establishing themselves as the sound of The British youth. In 2000, Q magazine placed All Mod Cons at Number 50 in its list of the 100 Greatest British Albums Ever.



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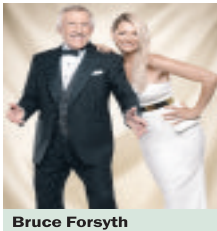
Express & Star

What's On!

SATURDAY'S TV 7.09.13

Listings supplied by Press Association

CHOICE



Strictly Come Dancing 2013

BBC1, 6.50pm
We don't want to tread on the twinkle toes of the couples over on ITV's Stepping Out, but Britain's most high-profile celebrity dance contest is back – well sort of. We'll have to wait for the contest to start in earnest, but this star-studded launch will give us a taste of what's in store. Everyone from Desperate Housewife Teri Hatcher to Hairly Biker Dave Myers has been rumoured to be in the running, but Bruce Forsyth and Tess Daly will finally be revealing which celebs will be joining confirmed contestant Vanessa Feltz on the dance floor.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast, 10.00 Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** Football Focus. **12.00** BBC News: Regional News: Weather. **12.10** Live Formula 1: Italian Grand Prix Qualifying. **2.30** Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **3.30** Bargain Hunt. (R) **4.15** Escape to the Country. (R) **5.00** That Puppet Game Show. **5.40** BBC News: Regional News: Weather. **6.00** **Pointless Celebrities.** Featuring veteran Blue Peter hosts Peter Purves and John Noakes. **6.50** **Strictly Come Dancing 2013.** Bruce Forsyth and Tess Daly host a red-carpet event introducing this year's 15 celebrities to their professional partners, with music by Rod Stewart and Jessie J. **8.10** **The National Lottery: Break the Safe.** Nick Knowles hosts the game show in which three pairs compete in several quiz rounds, with the winners playing for the money in the safe. Includes the National Lottery results. **9.00** BBC News: Weather. **9.20** **Last Night of the Proms.** Katie Derham presents the grand finale of this year's Proms, live from the Royal Albert Hall, featuring soloists Katie Kennedy and US operatic star Joyce DiDonato. Continued from BBC2. National Lottery Update. **10.55** **Michael McIntyre's Comedy Roadshow.** With Shappi Khorsandi, Tom Stacey, Steve Hughes and Paul Tonkinson. (R) **11.25** **Film: The Recruit.** (2003) Thriller, starring Al Pacino and Colin Farrell. **1.15** Weatherview. **1.20** BBC News.

BBC2

6.00 This Is BBC Two. **6.40** Formula 1: Italian Grand Prix – Practice One. **8.20** Formula 1: Italian Grand Prix – Practice Two. **9.55** Live Formula 1: Italian Grand Prix – Practice Three. **11.10** The Sky at Night. (R) **11.30** The A to Z of TV Cooking. **12.15** Caribbean Food Made Easy. (R) **12.45** Indian Food Made Easy. (R) **1.15** University Challenge. (R) **1.45** Exploring China: A Culinary Adventure. (R) **2.45** Wild China. (R) **3.45** Urban Jungle. **4.15** Flog It! (R) **5.00** Meet the Monkeys: Natural World. (R) **6.00** **Dragons' Den.** A Glasgow couple try to gain investment in their yoga franchise. (R) **7.00** **Dad's Army.** An invasion alert causes chaos. (R) **7.30** **Last Night of the Proms.** Martin Alsop becomes the first woman to conduct the traditional finale, which includes pieces by Vaughan Williams, Massenet, Handel, Rossini, Wagner, Britten and Bernstein. Continues on BBC One 9.20. **9.05** **Mock the Week.** The comedy quiz returns after a summer break, with Ed Byrne, Stewart Francis and Rob Beckett joining host Dara O Briain and regulars Chris Addison, Hugh Dennis and Andy Parsons. (R) **9.35** **Film: 360.** (2011) Premiere. A businessman struggles with temptation, unwittingly setting off a chain of events with consequences across the world. Drama, starring Anthony Hopkins and Rachel Weisz. **11.20** **Film: An Unfinished Life.** (2005) Drama, with Robert Redford, Morgan Freeman and Jennifer Lopez. **1.00** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Babar and the Adventures of Badou. **6.10** The Hoobs. **6.35** British Rallycross. **7.00** The Grid. **7.30** FIM World Superbikes 2013. **8.00** The Morning Line. **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Frasier. (R) **10.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **10.30** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **11.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **11.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **12.00** The Simpsons. (R) **12.30** Undercover Boss Australia. (R) **1.30** Channel 4 Racing. **4.10** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.15** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.45** Come Dine with Me. (R) **6.15** Come Dine with Me. (R) **6.45** Channel 4 News. **7.05** **Double Your House for Half the Money.** Sarah Beeny visits a couple whose cottage in Ardens Grafton, Warwickshire, has been extended gradually over time. (R) **8.00** **Grand Designs.** Kevin McCloud follows a project to transform a classic 1920s cinema in South Yorkshire into a family home, complete with a hydraulic glass wall that opens up one side of the house. (R) **9.00** **Film: Insidious.** (2010) Premiere. A family driven from their home by a haunting discover the spirits have followed them and have put their son into a coma. Horror, starring Patrick Wilson and Rose Byrne. **11.05** **Film: Don't Be Afraid of the Dark.** (2010) Premiere. Horror, starring Bailee Madison. **1.00** Derren Brown: The Guilt Trip. (R) **2.00** Hollywood. (R) **4.15** Deal or No Deal. (R) **5.05** Countdown. (R) **5.50** Kirstie's Handmade Treasures. (R) **12.25** Jackpot247. **3.00** The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. (R) **3.45** ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

6.00 The Treacle People. (R) **6.10** The Hoobs. **6.35** British Rallycross. **7.00** The Grid. **7.30** FIM World Superbikes 2013. **8.00** The Morning Line. **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Frasier. (R) **10.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **10.30** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **11.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **11.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **12.00** The Simpsons. (R) **12.30** Undercover Boss Australia. (R) **1.30** Channel 4 Racing. **4.10** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.15** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.45** Come Dine with Me. (R) **6.15** Come Dine with Me. (R) **6.45** Channel 4 News. **7.05** **Double Your House for Half the Money.** Sarah Beeny visits a couple whose cottage in Ardens Grafton, Warwickshire, has been extended gradually over time. (R) **8.00** **Grand Designs.** Kevin McCloud follows a project to transform a classic 1920s cinema in South Yorkshire into a family home, complete with a hydraulic glass wall that opens up one side of the house. (R) **9.00** **Film: Insidious.** (2010) Premiere. A family driven from their home by a haunting discover the spirits have followed them and have put their son into a coma. Horror, starring Patrick Wilson and Rose Byrne. **11.05** **Film: Don't Be Afraid of the Dark.** (2010) Premiere. Horror, starring Bailee Madison. **1.00** Derren Brown: The Guilt Trip. (R) **2.00** Hollywood. (R) **4.15** Deal or No Deal. (R) **5.05** Countdown. (R) **5.50** Kirstie's Handmade Treasures. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **10.00** Power Rangers: Megaforce. **10.35** Sluggert. **11.00** Inside Hollywood. **11.05** Celebrity Big Brother: Live Eviction. (R) **12.30** Highland Emergency. (R) **1.00** The Hotel Inspector. (R) **2.00** Film: Columbo: Ransom for a Dead Man. (1971) Drama, starring Peter Falk. **4.00** **Film: The Way West.** (1967) Western, starring Kirk Douglas, Robert Mitchum and Sally Field. **6.20** **Film: North Sea Hijack.** (1979) Thriller, with Roger Moore and James Mason. Edited for violence. **8.00** **5 News Weekend.** **8.05** **NCIS.** The team investigates the murder of a marine working for the Defence Intelligence Agency who was blamed for the disappearance of 500 specialised rifles in Afghanistan. (R) **9.00** **NCIS.** An investigation into the death of a seaman leaves the investigators wondering whether Gibbs is about to leave NCIS again, and Ziva introduces her new boyfriend to her team-mates. (R) **10.00** **Celebrity Big Brother.** The remaining housemates embark on the final week, knowing only one of them can be crowned Celebrity Big Brother winner on Friday night. **11.00** **Celebrity Big Brother's Bit on the Psych.** Psychological analysis of the housemates' behaviour. Last in the series. **12.00** **PopCasino.** **3.55** Wildlife SOS. (R) **4.20** Make It Big. (R) **4.50** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **5.00** Angels of Jarm. (R) **5.05** Hana's Helpline. (R) **5.20** Angels of Jarm. (R) **5.25** The Funky Valley Show. (R) **5.40** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **5.50** Hana's Helpline. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three
7.00 Doctor Who 7.45 Robin Hood **8.30** World's Craziest Fools **9.00** **Film: Road Trip** (2000). Comedy, starring Brackley Meyer, Tom Green and Seann William Scott. **10.30** Family Guy **11.20** American Dad! **BBC Four**
7.00 Mud, Sweat and Tractors: The Story of Agriculture **8.00** 10 Things You Didn't Know About Earthquakes **9.00** The Young Montyblano **11.00** Mr Blue Sky: The Story of Jeff Lynne and ELO **ITV2**
4.35 **Film: Small Soldiers** (1998) **6.45** **Film: Twister** (1996). Action thriller, starring Helen Hunt and Bill Paxton. Including FYI Daily. **9.00** The Xtra Factor **10.00** **Celebrity Juice** **10.45** The X Factor **11.50** The Xtra Factor **ITV3**
3.35 Wycliffe **4.45** Inspector Morse **6.55** Foyle's War: An organised crime racket is investigated. **9.00** Midsomer Murders **11.00** Wire in the Blood **ITV4**
2.25 **Film: Escape to Victory** (1981) **4.45** **Film: Every Which Way But Loose** (1978) **7.00** **Cycling: Vuelta a Espana** **8.00** Hornblower **10.15** **Film: The Krays** (1990). Gangster biopic, starring Gary and Martin Kemp. **E4**
5.30 The Mindy Project **6.00** The Big Bang Theory **7.00** Suburgatory **7.30** How I Met Your Mother **8.30** Happy Endings **9.00** **Film: Lake Placid** (1999) **10.40** The Big Bang Theory **11.40** The Inbetweeners **Film4**
3.00 Aliens in the Attic (2009) **4.40** The Searchers (1956) **7.00** The Wedding Planner (2001) **9.00** Mission: Impossible III (2006) **11.25** The Hills Have Eyes 2 (2007)

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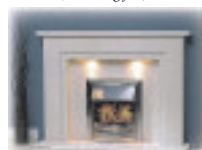
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SUNDAY'S TV 8.09.13

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CHOICE



Brenda Blethyn

Vera
ITV, 9pm

We're constantly being told that exercise is good for us. However, being a sports fanatic doesn't seem to have done Gideon Frane any good. He's the latest victim whose death is investigated by DCI Vera Stanhope. Frane's charred remains are found after he fell from a Northumberland cliff top in a ball of flames, and it turns out he'd recently received a letter stating he should burn in hell. A further delve into his activities reveals his ex-girlfriend, Izzy Rawlins, had made several complaints against him, claiming he was stalking her. Is she behind Frane's demise?

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** Sunday Morning Live 2013. **11.00** Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **12.00** BBC News. Weather. **12.10** Live Formula 1: The Italian Grand Prix. **3.15** Victoria Wood's Nice Cup of Tea. (R) **4.15** Escape to the Country. (R) **5.00** Songs of Praise. **5.35** Britain's Big Wildlife Revival.

6.35 BBC News; Regional News; Weather.

7.00 Countryfile. Matt Baker meets the artists inspired by the village of Staithes on the North Yorkshire coast. Adam Henson reveals the versatility of wheat and Tom Heap investigates solar power.

8.00 Antiques Roadshow. Fiona Bruce and the experts pay a second visit to the seafront at Eastbourne, East Sussex, where items include a collection of Victorian toy soldiers and an early digital watch. Red button viewers can play along by guessing the valuations.

9.00 What Remains. Len begins to uncover the truth about the fragile lives of the residents and it seems he has made a breakthrough when one of them admits to having had a relationship with Melissa.

10.00 BBC News; Regional News; Weather.

10.25 Room 101 - Extra Storage. With Craig Revel Horwood, Sheila Hancock and Jon Richardson. Last in the series. (R)

11.05 That Puppet Game Show. With Vernon Kay and Mel Giedroyc. (R)

11.45 Film: Fame. (1980) Musical drama, starring Irene Cara. **1.55** Weatherview. **2.00** BBC News.

BBC2

6.00 Film: Desert Passage. (1952) **7.00** Film: They Live By Night. (1948) **8.30** Around the World in 80 Days. (R) **9.30** The Beechgrove Garden. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **11.30** The Incredible Spice Men. (R)

12.00 What to Eat Now. (R) **12.30** EastEnders. (R) **2.25** Coast. (R) **2.45** Sailing: America's Cup Highlights. **3.30** Burghley Horse Trials. **5.30** Flog It! (R)

6.30 Iolo's Great Welsh Parks

7.00 The Great British Bake Off. Mary Berry and Paul Hollywood assess the contestants' 'dessert-making skills, challenging them to prepare trifles, floating islands of meringue on creme anglaise, and petits fours. (R)

8.00 Dragons' Den. One of the Dragons picks up a saxophone to join in with a musical pitch, and a Hull-based entrepreneur faces the panel to try to raise interest in her all-pink car-care range.

9.00 The Story of the Jews. Simon Schama examines the struggle of medieval Jews to preserve their identity under Christian and Islamic rulers and tells the story of their mass expulsion from Spain in 1492.

10.00 QI XL. With Sara Pascoe, Jack Whitehall and David Mitchell.

10.45 Blackadder the Third. The Duke of Wellington challenges the prince to a duel. Last in the series. (R)

11.15 Film: Shifty. (2008) Drama, starring Riz Ahmed and Daniel Mays.

12.40 Sign Zone: Countryfile. (R) **1.35** Holby City. (R) **2.35** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Babar and the Adventures of Badou. **6.10** Matt Hatter Chronicles. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan. (R) **6.50** Dino Dan. (R) **7.00** Animals. (R) **7.10** Animals. (R)

7.15 Animals. (R) **7.25** Sooty. **7.35** Fish Hooks. **7.50** Horrid Henry. (R) **8.00** Bottom Knockers Street. **8.15** Bottom Knockers Street. **8.30** Country House Sunday. **9.25** Ade in Britain. (R)

10.20 Murder, She Wrote. (R) **11.20** ITV News. Weather. **11.35** Film: Columbo: Murder - A Self Portrait. (1989) **1.35** Dinner Date. (R) **2.35** The X Factor. (R) **3.40** Big Star's Little Star. (R) **4.45** Film: Land of the Lost. (2009)

6.30 Regional Programme: Weather.

6.45 ITV News. Weather.

7.00 Coronation Street. Hour-long episode. The factory workers visit Hayley in hospital.

8.00 The X Factor. Invited to Wembley Arena for their second auditions, the singers who have already impressed the judges now have to show they can entertain a huge audience. Dermot O'Leary hosts.

9.00 Vera. Delving into the past of an extreme sports fan who has plunged from a cliff in a ball of flames, Vera uncovers a lifetime of bullying and an unexpected story of rough justice.

11.00 ITV News. Weather.

11.15 The Unforgettable Leslie Crowther. A profile of the game-show host. (R)

11.45 Premiership Rugby Union. Action from the opening round of top-flight fixtures.

12.40 The Store. **2.40** Motorsport UK. **3.30** ITV Nightscreen. **5.05** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R)

CHANNEL 4

6.10 The Hoobs. (R) **6.35** Ironman 2013. **7.05** American Football: Hard Knocks. **8.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.30** Frasier. (R) **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **12.55** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **1.25** The Simpsons. (R) **1.55** The Simpsons. (R) **2.25** Film: Bugsy Malone. (1976) **4.15** Location, Location, Location. (R) **5.20** Film: Stardust. (2007)

Fantasy adventure, with Charlie Cox, Claire Danes, Michelle Pfeiffer, Robert De Niro and Mark Strong.

7.55 The Political Slot. Plaid Cymru MEP Jill Evans explains how she thinks European support is helping to combat poverty and unemployment in rural Wales.

8.00 The Rise of Hitler. Part one of two. Documentary following the Fuhrer's ascent to power, beginning with his early years and the coup he attempted in 1923, which resulted in his imprisonment.

9.00 Film: Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy. (2011) Premiere. A former intelligence operative is brought out of retirement to investigate the possibility of a Soviet mole in MI6. Cold War thriller, with Gary Oldman and Colin Firth.

11.30 Alan Carr: Chatty Man. Jamie Foxx and Channing Tatum talk about their new film White House Down. David Walliams chats about his BBC One sitcom Big School and girl group Mutya Katana. (R)

12.30 8 Out of 10 Cats: Best Bits. (R) **1.15** American Football Live. **4.45** Ironman 2013. (R) **5.15** Deal or No Deal. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake!: Peppa Pig. **6.05** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **6.15** Fifi and the Flowertots. (R) **6.25** Bubble Guppies. (R) **6.35** The Mr Men Show. (R) **6.50** Chloe's Closet. **7.00** Roobarb and Custard Too. (R) **7.05** Bananas in Pyjamas. (R) **7.20** Noddy in Toyland. (R) **7.35** Milkshake! Monkey. (R) **7.40** City of Friends. (R) **7.55** Little Princess. (R) **8.05** Bert and Ernie's Great Adventures. (R) **8.10** The Adventures of Bottle Top Bill and His Best Friend Corky. (R) **8.25** Angelina Ballerina. (R) **8.45** Rupert Bear. (R) **9.00** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **9.10** Milkshake! Show Songs. (R) **9.15** Toby's Travelling Circus. (R) **9.30** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **9.45** Jelly Jamm. **10.00** The Mr Men Show. (R) **10.15** Power Rangers Samurai. (R) **10.50** Sluggerterra. **11.10** Monkey Life. (R) **11.40** Celebrity Big Brother. (R) **12.40** Celebrity BB

1.40 Film: Sabrina the Teenage Witch. (1996) **3.25** Film: Pocahontas. (1995) **5.00** Film: White Fang. (1991)

7.00 Cricket on 5. England v Australia.

8.00 Once Upon a Time. Storybrooke's self-destruct mechanism is activated. Last in the series.

8.55 5 News Weekend.

9.00 Celebrity Big Brother. A chance to catch up with the latest events.

10.00 Film: Mr & Mrs Smith. (2005)

12.20 Film: An American Haunting. (2005) **1.55** SuperCasino. **3.55** Wildlife SOS. (R) **4.20** Make It Big. (R) **4.50** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **5.05** Angels of Jarm. (R) **5.20** Angels of Jarm. (R) **5.25** The Funky Valley Show. (R) **5.40** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **5.50** Hana's Helpline. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three

7.00 Formula 1: Italian Grand Prix Highlights. **8.10** Great Movie Mistakes II: Not in 3D. **8.20** Film: Ratatouille. (2007) **10.00** Family Guy. **10.45** Bad Education. **11.15** American Dad!

BBC Four

7.00 Mud, Sweat and Tractors. **8.00** Ford's Dagenham Dream. **9.00** Requiem for Detroit. **10.15** Film: Silent Souls. (2010)

ITV2

2.50 Film: Babe: Pig in the City. (1998) **4.40** The X Factor. **5.45** The Xtra Factor. **6.50** Film: Dragonheart. (1996) **9.00** The Xtra Factor. **10.00** The Big Reunion: On Tour. **11.00** Film: American Pie Presents Band Camp. (2005)

ITV3

1.50 Film: The Nun's Story. (1959) **4.55** Foyle's War. **7.00** Lewis. A woman's murder is copied from the pages of a novel. **9.00** Film: Captain Corelli's Mandolin. (2001) **11.40** Film: Bloody Sunday. (2002)

ITV4

1.40 Film: Northwest Mounted Police. (1940) **4.15** Film: Dunkirk. (1958) **7.00** Cycling: Vuelta a Espana. **9.00** Premiership Rugby Union. **9.00** Film: Burn After Reading. (2008) **11.00** Film: Scarface. (1983)

E4

5.20 The Mindy Project. **5.50** The Big Bang Theory. **7.15** New Girl. **7.45** Film: The Devil Wears Prada. (2006) **10.00** Rude Tube. **11.00** The Inbetweeners. **11.35** Don't Trust the B**** in Apartment 23

Film4

3.05 James and the Giant Peach. (1996) **4.40** The Jewel of the Nile. (1985) **6.45** Home Alone 2: Lost in New York. (1992) **9.00** The Bank Job. (2008) **11.10** Terminal Velocity. (1994)

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What's On!

Film Choices

MONDAY

Operation Amsterdam, Channel 4, 4.10am

A stiff-upper-lipped British Army officer engages in a spot of larceny to aid the war effort. Ordered to Amsterdam, he joins forces with two cunning Dutchmen and steals a secret cache of diamonds from a bank vault, thus preventing the gems falling into Nazi hands. Second World War adventure, starring Peter Finch, Tony Britton and Eva Bartok. (1958)

TUESDAY

The Professionals, Channel 4, 12.50pm

A wealthy Texan hires four mercenaries to rescue his wife, who has been abducted and taken to Mexico by a bandit gang. However, when they find her, she refuses to leave and they have to take her by force – ending in a cross-border chase with the outlaws on their tail. Western adventure, with Burt Lancaster, Lee Marvin, Robert Ryan, Woody Strode, Jack Palance and Claudia Cardinale. (1966)



Sliding Doors, Wednesday, BBC1, 11.20pm

WEDNESDAY

Sliding Doors, BBC1, 11.20pm

A London woman's entire future hinges on whether or not she catches a train. In one version of events, she gets the chance to start afresh and lead a happy new life, but in the other she is stuck supporting her lazy, unfaithful boyfriend. Comedy drama, presenting two parallel stories featuring the same character. Starring Gwyneth Paltrow, John Hannah and John Lynch. (1998)

THURSDAY

Elizabeth: The Golden Age, ITV, 10.35pm

Queen Elizabeth I faces threats at home and abroad, as Mary, Queen of Scots plots against her while the King of Spain builds a vast armada to undertake an invasion of England. Unable to reconcile her feelings for the dashing Sir Walter Raleigh with her duty to her country, the monarch engineers a romance between the courtier and one of her ladies-in-waiting. Historical drama sequel, with Cate Blanchett, Clive Owen, Geoffrey Rush and Samantha Morton. (2007)

FRIDAY

United 93, ITV, 11.05pm

Fact-based drama, re-creating the events on the fourth plane hijacked in the September 11 attacks in 2001. The passengers were by now aware of the destruction at the World Trade Centre and the Pentagon. Realising their plane was about to be used for a similar purpose, they set out to wrest control from the terrorists. Directed by Paul Greengrass and starring Christian Clemenson, Trish Gates, David Alan Basche and Cheyenne Jackson. (2006)

Pick of the Week

There's news for the boys on the front line

Think of the First World War and what immediately springs to mind?

Probably the dirt, squalor and misery of life in the trenches, coupled with a massive loss of life.

There are certainly few laughs to be had whenever the conflict is mentioned – unless, of course, you're a massive fan of Blackadder Goes Forth. But that was a fictional sitcom, and the events depicted in this drama are true.

It focuses on Captain Fred Roberts and Lieutenant Jack Pearson who, in 1916, launched The Wipers Times, a newspaper that turned the horrors of warfare into black comedy and satire, raising the morale of the British Tommy's who read it in the process.

This feature-length drama has been something of a labour of love for its writers, Private Eye alumni Ian Hislop and Nick Newman.

"Ian had done a radio documentary about the Wipers Times many years ago and he showed me the paper," says Nick. "But when we got talking about it, it was partly the collaboration and the way these two men worked

together that intrigued us. So that was part of the springboard for our fascination with these stories; we imagined it was a bit how we work together."

"And it's the story about a satirical newspaper produced in 1916," adds Ian. "We both work on a satirical newspaper now. The truth is that theirs was funnier and much harder to do."

"We're doing it in Soho most of the time and they were doing it in the worst possible circumstances. They were incredible. To think that in the middle of it all they were sitting there writing jokes and then printing them up is just amazing."

Ben Chaplin plays Roberts who, at the start of the story, is leading his troops through a bombed-out building when he stumbles upon a printing press.

Coincidentally, his sergeant reveals he was a printer before the war, which inspires Roberts to use the press to produce a newspaper.

Called The Wipers Times (after the way in which British soldiers pronounced Ypres), it's full of jokes,

pastiches and spoofs – an approach that upsets some of Roberts' superiors, but gets the full backing of a general who recognises its worth.

Michael Palin, Emilia Fox and Julian Rhind-Tutt also star in this tale which, at times, seems almost too bizarre to be true.

Nick explains: "We've been very lucky because we've got the original facsimile of the original Wipers Times in their entirety. Also we've got a memoir that Fred Roberts wrote long after the war. Everything in the story is true: there's a meeting with Churchill, there are spies, there's all kinds of detail, which was all absolutely true."

"If you watch the film and you think we've made it up, we won't have, it'll be true," claims Ian. "Roberts' life is extraordinary and he wins the Military Cross in the middle of the War for gallantry, just after producing a magazine at the Battle of the Somme."

There are great performances here, and plenty of stiff upper lips on show – expect to be moved, amused and left on the edge of your seat in equal measure.



Ben Chaplin stars in The Wipers Times, Wednesday, BBC2, 9pm

Best of the Rest

MONDAY

Doc Martin

ITV, 9pm

Port Isaac has been a favoured filming locations for years, thanks to projects such as Poldark, The Nightmare Man, and Oscar and Lucinda. However, in recent years the Cornish village has become synonymous with this series. "The number of people who come to see us now is phenomenal, particularly people from America," explains Martin Clunes. The latest good-looking offering should also attract plenty of viewers as the grumpy GP upsets the new childminder and is left holding the baby. Although Mike agrees to look after James at short notice, Louisa is far from happy with the arrangement, which leads to an argument between the newlyweds as his guests, Dennis and Karen Dods, turn up for dinner.

Blackout

Channel 4, 9pm

For some of us, even a 30-minute power cut is enough to send us into a panic, but what if the blackout lasted days – would we show a bit of Blitz spirit? That's the question posed by this drama, and the conclusions don't sound particularly reassuring. Drawing on expert advice and meticulous research, Blackout follows the first five days of a catastrophic nationwide power cut, caused by cyber attack on the national electricity grid. What makes the drama feel even more real is the use of 'found footage' as the cast, which comprises professional actors alongside members of the public, are filmed on mobile phones, laptops and camcorders – presumably charged before the outage.

TUESDAY

Live International Football

ITV, 7.15pm

Having faced relative minnows Moldova at Wembley Stadium on Friday in what should have been a straightforward affair, England face a much sterner test of their credentials this evening as they take on Ukraine at the Olympic Stadium in Kiev. This is the final away trip of the campaign for Roy Hodgson's men, who have hardly impressed on their travels, only managing to defeat Moldova and San Marino, and gaining draws in Poland and Montenegro. The sides met in their opening qualifier, when only a late Frank Lampard penalty salvaged a 1-1 draw for the hosts, after Yevhen Konoplyanka had opened the scoring in the first half.

The Great British Bake Off

BBC2, 8pm

This show doesn't just bring us an array of baked goods that look so tempting they make us want to lick the screen – oh no, it also provides us with a virtually non-stop stream of gentle innuendo. So, Mel and Sue should be in their element this week as the remaining contestants tackle tarts – well, anything that stops them sticking their elbows in the bakers' muffins, as they did a couple of weeks ago, is bound to be a bonus. The presenters will also be finding out more about the 700-year history of the English custard tart, which also

happens to be this week's technical challenge, and leaves some of our hopefuls looking a bit wobbly.

WEDNESDAY

Big Star's Little Star

ITV, 8pm

Back in 1984, Michael Aspel hosted Child's Play, an ITV series which ran for 75 episodes and featured the hilarious observations of kids. (We suspect laughing gas was pumped into the studio considering the reactions of some of the audience members' reactions). That ran for four years and amazingly ITV bosses left the format well alone. However, this offering exploits

similar themes designed to embarrass and delight semi-famous celebrities such as Sinitta. The occasional X Factor contributor/I'm A Celebrity... veteran will be appearing with her eight-year-old daughter Magdalena; Robbie Savage and his son

Freddie, 7, and Duncan James plays the game with daughter Tianie-Finn, 8. Apparently the show will be filled with celebrity revelations, funny anecdotes and heart-warming moments.

THURSDAY

Peaky Blinders

BBC2, 9pm

It's not every day

that movie stars agree to appear in a BBC2 drama. But then it's not every day that a project like this comes along. Set in 1919, it was inspired by a real-life Midlands gang who sewed razor blades into the peaks of their flat caps so they could use them as weapons during any altercations with rivals or enemies. Cillian Murphy plays Tommy Shelby, who's been away fighting in the First World War. During his and his older brother's absence, their Aunt Polly (Helen McCrory), has run their dodgy family business. Now they're back, Tommy is determined to make the Shelbys the area's toughest, wealthiest and most ruthless family. Sam Neill plays the policeman ordered to bring the Shelbys to justice.

FRIDAY

Celebrity Big Brother: Live Final

Channel 5, 8.30pm

What a glorious series this has been, even if many of us may never have heard of Abz Love, aka Richard Breen (of boyband Sive); Dustin Diamond (of cult US sitcom Saved By The Bell); TOWIE signing Mario Falcone; Georgie Shore's Charlotte Crosby; US model Courtney Stodden, and Dublin Wives' Danielle Marr, the first evictee. Genuine star Carole McGiffin has been one of the most entertaining, along with ex-Corrie thespian Bruce Jones and Vicky Entwistle; Sophie Anderton; Lauren Harries (aka former alleged child prodigy James), and camp hoover Louie Spence. However, Ron Atkinson seemed bemused by the whole affair. Now we find out who has made it to the final, and who will be the latest CBB winner.



Doc Martin, Monday, ITV, 9pm

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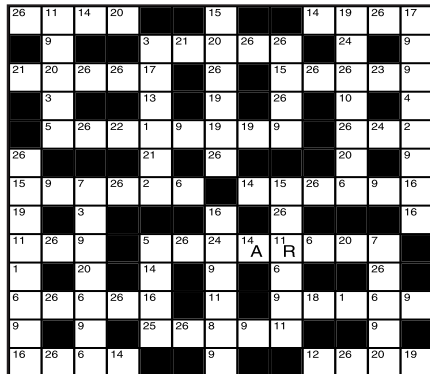
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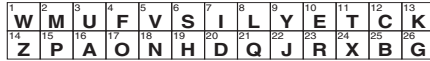
No.237

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:



Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

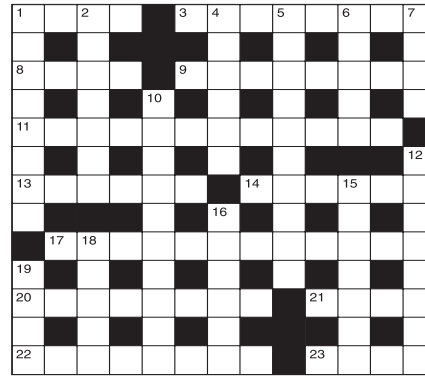
Cryptic Clues:

Across

1. An animal for a dollar (4)
3. Cheeky chappie at university (8)
8. She's never after a part (4)
9. Something heard in court, without doubt, gives gratification (8)
11. Go over - to the enemy once more? (12)
13. They're for putting on vegetables (6)
14. It is barred (6)
17. Result of refusing to take things lying down? (5-2,5)
20. Exits? (8)
21. A direction to lower a boat (4)
22. Mislaid one's watch and was held up? (4,4)
23. An indistinct impression of speed? (4)

Down

1. Gave beer as a drink (8)
2. Craft of many a wise man (7)
4. Tell a minister off quietly (6)
5. Is little skill required to sail them? (5,5)
6. Cast down (5)
7. You want to be in it (4)
10. Expanding, becoming more communicative (7,3)
12. The most admirable debtor is one who gives (8)
15. U.S. soldier in a pub? That's reasonable! (7)
16. Enough to prevent parting without meeting (6)
18. Of course they're better devices (5)
19. A spring I pass round (4)



Quick Clues:

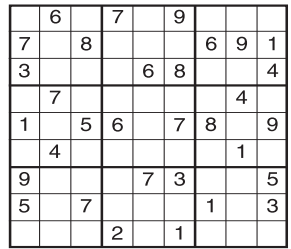
Across

1. Wander (4)
3. Fraud (8)
8. Muddle (4)
9. Adherent (8)
11. Shows (12)
13. Attack (6)
14. Corn (6)
17. Student of insects (12)
20. Lift (8)
21. Greet (4)
22. Scatter (8)
23. Refuse (4)

Down

1. Curative (8)
2. Adopts (7)
4. Genial (6)
5. Magnetism (10)
6. Result (5)
7. Fire-arms (4)
10. Animate (10)
12. Cruelly (8)
15. Secret (7)
16. Spongy (6)
18. Wants (5)
19. Loan (4)

Sudoku



Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

5	9	6	4	7	8	3	2	1
1	8	7	3	2	5	6	4	9
3	4	2	1	5	6	7	8	9
9	1	4	7	2	3	6	5	8
6	2	5	6	1	4	9	7	3
6	7	3	9	8	5	4	1	2
2	3	8	5	6	9	1	4	7
7	6	9	8	4	1	2	3	5
4	5	1	2	3	7	8	9	6

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS: CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Archipelago; 9 Exactor; 10 Worse; 11 Pitch; 12 Threats; 13 Nicest; 15 Demean; 18 Heroine; 20 Legal; 22 Nears; 23 Torment; 24 Antecedents. Down: 2 React; 3 Hitches; 4 Party; 5 Lower; 6 Garbage; 7 Helping hand; 8 Personality; 14 Curtain; 16 Enlarge; 17 Settle; 19 Issue; 21 Great. QUICK - Across: 1 Advancement; 9 Lattice; 10 Lemon; 11 Bloat; 12 Plaudit; 13 Ensure; 15 Psyche; 18 Gainsay; 20 Aesop; 22 Sense; 23 Tribute; 24 Temperament. Down: 2 Dillo; 3 Aviator; 4 Creepy; 5 Malta; 6 Normadic; 7 Flabbergast; 8 Unattempted; 14 Science; 16 Stadium; 17 Oyster; 19 Steep; 21 Spurn.



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Property

YOUR WEEKLY GUIDE TO
HOME BUYING AND LETTING

Two-bedroom property shows a lot of character



There is no upward chain involved with the sale of this two-bed cottage in Stourport

A TWO-BEDROOM character cottage with a long rear garden and off-road parking space in Wilden Lane, Stourport-on-Severn, is for sale, priced at £122,950.

On offer with no upward chain, the property has a living room with open fireplace, kitchen with integral appliances, cellar, two bedrooms, bathroom and potential for loft conversion. The home benefits from wood effect UPVC double glazing and gas central heating, new carpets/flooring throughout and the loft space floor-boarded and plastered.

Set back behind a private residents' parking area with space for one vehicle per property, the house is in an elevated position with steps up to the front door which opens to the sitting room with open fireplace and tiled hearth.

To the rear is a fitted kitchen with appliances including electric double oven, gas hob and hood with a door giving access to a cellar and stairs to the first floor with a double and single bedroom and bathroom.

Outside to the rear is a shared pathway to a garden area more than 100 ft long with open aspect beyond.

Call Allan Morris & Jones on 01299 825522 for more information.

End terrace with ample car parking – £107,950



Situated in West Bromwich, this end terrace is available through agent WLYP

This two-bedroom end terrace property in Claypit Lane, West Bromwich, is on the market priced at £107,950.

The home benefits from double glazing, central heating, driveway parking and lawned rear garden with accommodation briefly comprising of hallway, fitted kitchen, lounge, two bedrooms and bathroom. On the ground floor the kitchen, 8ft 2in by 4ft 9in, has a range of wall and base

units, roll-top work surfaces, stainless steel sink drainer with mixer tap and gas cooker point with stainless steel hood over while the lounge measuring 19ft 1in by 13ft has a fire surround with electric fire.

On the first floor are two bedrooms and a bathroom with bath with electric shower, WC and pedestal wash hand basin.

Call WLYP on 0121 525 9090 for more details.

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BROOKWILLOW ROAD, HALESOWEN



3 bed home with driveway & garage
Refitted kitchen, utility/WC & two receps
Refitted family bathroom
Lawn rear garden
UPVC double glazing & GCH
Sought after residential area EPC rating: D
£174,950 Ref: D1345

MILCOTE ROAD, BEARWOOD



End terraced 3 bed home with 2 bathrooms
2 reception rooms & 13ft kitchen
Gardens to front & rear
Gas central heating & majority upvc dg
close to warley woods & lightwoods park
EPC rating: F
£149,950 Ref: D1351

BUCKINGHAM RD, ROWLEY REGIS



Well presented 3 bed semi-detached home
Located in cul-de-sac position
22110 lounge diner leading to 8ft kitchen
Lawn rear garden with s/w aspect
GCH & majority upvc double glazing fitted
Garage & driveway. EPC rating: D
£119,950 Ref: D1350

CAUSEWAY GREEN RD, OLDBURY



Large 2 bed terrace with double garage
25ft 10 lounge/dining room & sep. Kitchen
2 double bedrooms & bathroom
UPVC DG & GCH. Rear garden
Well located for amenities - EPC rating D
Ideal 1st time purchase
£96,000 Ref: D1347

BURRINGTON RD, BARTLEY GREEN



Spacious 3 bed home with driveway
10ft lounge diner & 11ft breakfast kitchen
Entrance porch with walk in storage
3 good sized bedrooms, bathroom & WC
Gas central heating & double glazing
Rear garden. EPC rating: E
£85,000 Ref: D1198

WARWICK CLOSE, OLDBURY



Mews home with 3 good sized bedrooms
Located in a cul-de-sac position
23ft lounge diner and 10ft10 kitchen
Downstairs wc & upstairs bathroom
UPVC double glazing & gas central heating
Gardens to front & rear. EPC rating: C
£114,950 Ref: D1299

STEWARTS ROAD, HALESOWEN



Large 2 double bed home with garage
14ft lounge & 17ft8 kitchen diner
Lawn gardens to front & rear
Gas central heating & majority upvc DG
No upward chain
EPC rating: C
£110,995 Ref: D1341

MERTON CLOSE, OLDBURY



Spacious 2/3 bed home in cul-de-sac
Refitted breakfast kitchen & lounge diner
Downstairs wc & 2nd floor family bathroom
Driveway to front & private garden to rear
UPVC DG & GCH
EPC rating: D
£109,995 Ref: D1287

PEARTREE LANE, CRADLEY HEATH



Unfurnished - Available immediately
4 bed detached with ensuite & garage
Lounge, dining room, kitchen, utility & d.c.
Accessible to amenities & train station
Gardens to front & rear
NO DSS NO PETS NO SMOKERS. EPC rating C
£750 Ref: DL143

CLYDESDALE ROAD, QUINTON



3 bed family home with driveway & garage
In sought after tree lined road
2 reception rooms, kitchen & d/s WC
Family bathroom with roof access
Rear garden with private aspect
D/Glazing & GCH. EPC rating: C
£650 Ref: DL144

RAMSAY ROAD, OLDBURY



Much improved 3 bed semi with parking
Refitted breakfast kitchen, lounge, utility
3 bedrooms & refitted bathroom
Enclosed rear garden with sunny aspect,
UPVC DG, GCH
No upward chain EPC rating D
£650 Ref: DL145

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 **Property**

Raised rear garden has an inset rockery



The large kitchen at the bungalow which has room for a breakfast table and features plenty of storage

A TWO/THREE bedroom detached bungalow in Trimpey Gardens, Penn, is for sale with no upward chain at offers around £249,950.

The property is in a cul-de-sac location, near to Penn Common with its lovely walks, church, pub and golf club – and with shopping in nearby Penn and bus services into Wolverhampton, Wombourne and further afield.

The bungalow benefits from majority double glazing and central heating with accommodation briefly comprising breakfast kitchen and with bedroom three now a dining area off the lounge.

The rear lounge has a fireplace with tiled inset and gas fire and an archway into the dining area/bedroom three, while the breakfast kitchen has a range of base, drawer and wall units, one and a half bowl sink and mixer tap, electric oven and gas hob and the utility room base cupboards, plumbing for washing machine, patio doors to rear garden and door to garage.

The master bedroom has built-in wardrobes and there is a second bedroom and a shower room with wash hand basin, cubicle and WC. Outside the front of the property is set back from the road behind a block paved driveway with lawn and shrubs, with the rear garden having a large paved patio with steps to a shaped lawn with shrub borders and inset rockery.

Call Berriman Eaton on 01902 747744 for further information.



The bungalow as viewed from the rear garden of 18 Trimpey Gardens



Stepping up from the patio is a lawned garden which is well-presented

Victorian home to suit a first time purchaser

A TRADITIONAL Victorian property in the appropriately named Victoria Road, Bradmore, Wolverhampton, is on the market at £117,500.

Described as ideal for the first time buyer, the home has a low-maintenance courtyard entrance, front dining room, sitting room with feature fireplace, fitted kitchen, separate utility, stripped pine doors, gas central heating and double glazing (where stated), two first floor double bedrooms, refitted bathroom suite with P-shaped bath and shower, on street parking and long rear garden with vegetable plot.

On the ground floor the sitting room has a feature fireplace with living flame gas fire, marble inset and matching hearth while the fitted kitchen has a range of units, stainless steel single drainer sink, work surfaces, display cabinet and door to a separate utility with work surface, plumbing for automatic washing machine and wall unit.

On the first floor bedroom one has a feature cast iron open fireplace



This traditional Victorian property is priced £117,500

while the bathroom has a bath with shower and screen, vanity unit and WC. Outside the property is approached via a small entrance courtyard with low maintenance garden, dwarf

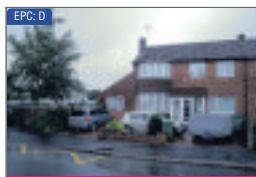
walling and blue brick path, with the rear garden having a patio area, lawn, shrubs and trees, shed and vegetable plot.

Call estate agent Nick Tart on 01902 755585 for more details.

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HALESOWEN, Jimara, Feldon Lane£695 pcm
An extended traditional semi-detached house with plenty of space. Comprising a large living room, separate dining room, study, 2 double bedrooms, 1 large single bedroom, study/bedroom 4, house bathroom with shower, kitchen with appliances, separate utility room, downstairs wc, driveway for 3 cars.



HALESOWEN, Sanderson Place£650 pcm
Luxury living in Hayley Green. A superb ground floor apartment offering spacious accommodation including open plan lounge/kitchen and diner, 2 double bedrooms, master with en-suite, further well appointed bathroom with shower, gas central heating, double glazing and allocated parking.



HALESOWEN, Wroxley House£625 pcm
Luxury living in Hayley Green. This luxury 1st floor apartment offers spacious accommodation including open plan lounge/ kitchen and diner with balcony, 2 double bedrooms, master with en-suite, further well appointed bathroom with shower, gas central heating, double glazing and allocated parking.



BIRMINGHAM, City Heights£625 pcm
A furnished 2nd floor apartment, in the centre of Birmingham, briefly featuring 2 double bedrooms, through lounge/kitchen, electric storage heating, bathroom with shower, parking space, close to Snow Hill train station and walking distance to the city centre.



BEARWOOD, St Marys Road£625 pcm
A 2 bedroom furnished to suit mid terraced house located in this very popular area of Bearwood. The property offers spacious accommodation with 2 reception rooms, kitchen with appliances, downstairs bathroom with shower over bath, 2 double bedrooms. Private rear garden. On road parking. Available now.



HALESOWEN, Victoria Road£575 pcm
A large unfurnished end terrace house, close to local shops and transport links, briefly featuring 4 bedrooms, 2 reception rooms, kitchen, downstairs w.c. & bathroom with Shower, gas central heating, driveway parking. Available 6/9/2013.



HALESOWEN, Hope Street£550 pcm
A fully refurbished ground floor apartment, set in a quiet and popular cul-de-sac. This property features a large lounge, refitted kitchen, 2 double bedrooms and refitted carpets. The apartment has double glazing, newly fitted electric heating, garage and rear garden.



HALESOWEN, Hope Street£550 pcm
A 2 bedroom furnished to suit mid terraced house located in this very popular area of Bearwood. The property offers spacious accommodation with 2 reception rooms, kitchen with appliances, downstairs bathroom with shower over bath, 2 double bedrooms. Private rear garden. On road parking. Available now.



HALESOWEN, Fairmile Road£525 pcm
Beautifully furnished. Situated in a popular residential area of Halesowen, with easy access to buses to the town. This modern furnished 1st floor apartment comprises 2 double bedrooms, excellent natural light in lounge, modern fitted kitchen, bathroom with a shower, gas central heating, double glazing, garage parking, and communal gardens.



OLDSWINFORD, Heath Lane£515 pcm
Ideally located in the centre of Oldswinford for shops, transport links and Mary Stevens Park. This large and spacious end terrace house features 3 good size bedrooms, 2 reception rooms, downstairs bathroom, upstairs toilet, fitted kitchen, enclosed rear garden and on road parking.



CRADLEY HEATH, Mill Road£495 pcm
Located on this very popular Timbertree Estate and ideally situated for local schools and transport links. Comprising 3 bedrooms, 2 reception rooms, modern kitchen, house bathroom with shower, tiered rear garden. On road parking.



HALESOWEN, Howley Grange Road£495 pcm
A furnished split level flat on a sought after road. Ideal for Howley Grange Primary School and for Birmingham. This property features a utility room, fitted kitchen, living room, 2 bedrooms, bathroom with shower. Benefits also include gas central heating, garage.



CRADLEY HEATH, King Street£475 pcm
Located in the heart of Old Hill with shops and train links close by. This unfurnished top floor modern apartment comprises 2 bedrooms, master bedroom with en-suite, fitted kitchen, lounge, double glazing, electric storage heating, bathroom with shower, allocated parking space.



BRIERLEY HILL, Little John Street£475 pcm
Located within walking distance to Briery Hill and Merry Hill. This unfurnished modern and new house features 2 double bedrooms, gas central heating, fitted kitchen, downstairs w.c, spacious living room, bathroom with shower, rear garden, off road parking for 2 cars.



NETHERTON, Round Street£475 pcm
Set in a quiet road, is this lovely semi-detached home. Featuring gas central heating, living room, fitted kitchen, 1 double and 1 single bedroom, bathroom with shower, rear garden and driveway parking for 2 cars, unfurnished. Popular residential street close to Netherton High Street.



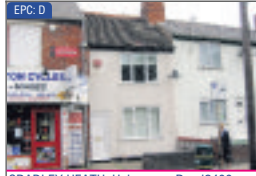
LYE, High Street £450 pcm
Fully furnished in the centre of Lye. This large and spacious 1st floor apartment has a lovely lounge with a feature bay window, 2 good size bedrooms, new bathroom suite but no shower, modern and contemporary kitchen with oven and hob, electric heating, double glazing, on road parking.



CRADLEY HEATH, Pear Tree Lane£450 pcm
Modern 1st floor apartment. Situated on a popular development within walking distance of Old Hill train station and shops. Featuring 1 large double bedroom and 1 single, gas central heating, spacious living room, fitted kitchen with small fridge, bathroom with shower, parking space, rear garden.



WORDSLEY, John Street£450 pcm
Close to local buses to Kingswinford, Stourbridge and a short walk from Ambicote. This 2 double bedroom terraced house features 2 reception rooms, fitted kitchen, house bathroom with shower, on road parking and an enclosed rear garden.



CRADLEY HEATH, Halesowen Road£400 pcm
This value for money unfurnished terraced house, close to Old Hill town centre and Old Hill train station. Featuring 2 bedrooms with fitted wardrobes, gas central heating, 2 reception rooms, fitted kitchen with appliances, downstairs bathroom with shower, on road parking. NO REAR GARDEN.



HALESOWEN, Leasowes Court£395 pcm
A part furnished to suit 1st floor flat within walking distance to Halesowen. Featuring living room, fitted kitchen, 1 double bedroom, bathroom with shower. Benefits include allocated parking, communal gardens, electric heating.



CRADLEY HEATH, Victoria Gardens£395 pcm
A modern ground floor apartment, in the centre of Old Hill, with local bus stop outside, and Old Hill train station close by, briefly comprising of: one double bedroom, electric storage heating, double glazing, fitted kitchen, bathroom with shower, allocated parking, unfurnished.

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Charter Crescent, Cradley Heath



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Lavendar Road, Dudley



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Thunderbolt Way, Tipton



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Two bedroom second floor flat briefly comprising bathroom, lounge, kitchen, communal gardens and allocated parking.

Geneva Road, Tipton



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Mid terraced three bedroom property briefly comprising lounge, kitchen, downstairs WC, family bathroom, rear garden and driveway.

Ivanhoe Street, Dudley



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Mid terraced three bedroom property briefly comprising entrance lobby, lounge, dining room, kitchen, downstairs bathroom and rear garden.



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Motoring

Compiled by Motoring
Editor Sharon Walters

You'll be sitting pretty with new smaller and lighter C4 Picasso

By Ian Donaldson

A BIT smaller, a bit lighter, a bit more economical and a bit more room for people and things. That's the new C4 Picasso as it updates a very successful formula.

Building on a line of people carriers that began with the Xsara Picasso in 1999, the newcomer adds a touch of style – inside and out – to a class of car that has to major on sense over looks and can easily end up simply dull.

This latest C4 Picasso is anything but boring to look out, doing a good job of hiding the practicality demanded by the young families that are going to take a huge slice of sales.

Inside, with two big screens to look at and the possibility of adding a roof with so much glass it feels like living in a conservatory, the sense of style continues apace. Citroën

licences the Picasso name from the estate of the 20th century artist (at a never revealed cost) and you hope he might approve, given a sight of the car wherever his spirit resides right now. Priced from £17,500 to £24,445, the car is the first Citroën built on a new platform (the most expensive piece of a car to design and build) that we'll see under lots of Citroëns and Peugeot's in the years ahead.

Sibling

A longer Grand Picasso, with seven seats over three rows, arrives in January next year and, if past sales are a guide, will sell more than twice as many in the UK as its smaller sibling.

Citroën was careful to get over the message that the C4 Picasso was more about family practicality than sporting fun before it let the press in its new baby, and it's certainly no contender for pole at Silverstone.

Thank goodness, I say, for a car designed for family life and not weighed down by absurd expectations from a marketing department living in cloud cuckoo land. So it was good to

discover that the air conditioning coped on the hottest day of the year, so hot that stepping out of the car felt like entering a burning house while being gently sprayed with warm water.

A pity, though, that the ride turned unpleasantly pattery over some of the non-descript roads around the launch venue in north London. You can choose a petrol engine in your C4 Picasso, but almost no-one will, going for the diesel option instead. The 92 horsepower version in the test car (a 115hp unit is also available) was peppy enough (106mph, 0-62mph in 12.9 seconds), although the 46mpg recorded on the trip computer was way off the 67mpg returned in the official, but unrealistic, tests the car had to be put through.

The VTR+ plus trim will be the most popular choice in the C4 Picasso line and includes rear parking sensors and a DAB radio on top of cruise control, alloy wheels and dual-zone air conditioning. Practical aspects range from three same-sized rear seats that slide to increase boot room and a front passenger seat that folds flat.



A petrol engine is available, but the diesel option is likely to be the most popular choice

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Motoring

Small cars with big designs stand out

Nissan's small car model range has the B-segment covered.

Combining bold design, a host of sector-first technologies and trademark Nissan innovation, the all-new Note, new Micra and latest Juke line-up now form the most comprehensive, diverse and exciting B-segment range on the market.

At the heart of Nissan's new B-segment line-up is the all-new Note. Designed and engineered for the European market, it introduces a bold design, breakthrough sector-first technologies, exceptional practicality and unrivalled value for money, and will compete head on with the likes of Fiesta and Polo.

Seamlessly connecting design and technology, the new Note – which is built at Nissan's Sunderland plant – brings a number of innovative premium features to the small car market for the first time. From the Nissan Safety Shield – which links three safety systems to create a comprehensive protection and driver assistance package – to the advanced around view monitor which gives a 360-degree bird's eye view when parking, the new Note sets the benchmark for accessible premium technology.

Joining the Note in Nissan's exciting small car range is the new Micra. With



Nissan's new Note features the advanced Safety Shield protection package

over 30 years of history and sales of over six million units to date, the Micra remains one of Nissan's most recognizable and popular cars around the world.

In typical Nissan style, the new Micra benefits from a raft of new innovations and design touches designed specifically to make life easier and more enjoyable. Nissan's latest Connect navigation and communication centre joins the range, while a new and expanded set of personalization options gives buyers the opportunity

to create their perfect Micra. Nissan's drive to deliver advanced engineering to all its B-segment offerings is further demonstrated by the arrival of a new Juke diesel.

Developed by Nissan Alliance partner Renault, the new engine features Stop/Start idle system as standard for the first time and incorporates revised gearing for better drivability and refinement. A significant increase in torque (up from 240Nm to 260Nm) and improved turbo response at low engine speeds delivers

improved flexibility and performance. With lowered CO emissions of just 109g/km and a 12.5% improvement in fuel economy, the Juke represents an even more compelling package for small car buyers looking to stand out from the crowd.

"The arrival of the new European-built Note, new Micra and new-generation Juke diesel gives Nissan one of the most comprehensive small car ranges on the market." Sales of Nissan's new Note will begin in the autumn.

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Triumph's Sprint GT is a breath of fresh air

By Bob Hickman

I HAVE ridden and owned motorcycles for more years than I care to remember, all the major Japanese contenders have seen space in my garage, so have Italian models and the occasional one from America.

One of my first ever large road bikes was a Triumph, a name synonymous with motorcycling and one of the few remaining British motor cycling brands in production.

Thanks to the brilliant entrepreneurial skills of John Bloor, Triumph hold its head up high throughout the world and its range of motorcycles is astounding. From out-and-out cruisers to sports bikes, and now with the arrival of the Sprint GT, Triumph have introduced a bike designed specifically for those riders who enjoy long distance riding and want to be out and about touring.

The GT, in company with most of the Triumph range, is equipped with the superb triple engine. It has a displacement of 1050cc and has become renowned over the years for power and reliability, and after the plethora of four-cylinder Japanese bikes it is pleasing on the ear to have a quirky engine in the frame.

Triumph has not fallen in to the trap of producing a bike primarily for long distance touring and then equipping it with a minuscule tank that necessitates a panic every 80 to 100 miles to refuel, and they are suggesting that at least 200 miles should be possible with the fuel capacity available.

The GT has received an uprated lighting system after numerous complaints were made about a previous derivative. The swinging arm has been extended and this translates to far better stability for that long distance touring trip, especially when you add in the weight of luggage, a top box and a pillion.

The frame is a twin-spar aluminium beam, with huge 43mm front forks, the internals have been uprated to allow better control and damping. Triumph has lightened the wheels, and with quite huge tyres of ZR17 120/70 at front and a 180/55 rear. These give both grip and durability, and also aid stability.

Adjust

If you like meddling, which I particularly don't, you can actually adjust the preload on the rear suspension to incorporate whether you are carrying a full load and a passenger.

The suspension has been honed to incorporate 127mm of travel at the front and 152mm of travel at the rear, therefore bumps and various unhelpful, unfriendly road surfaces can be swallowed up.

Triumph has not over-braked or under-braked the system, at the front there are twin 320mm floating discs with four-piston calipers and the GT Sprint also benefits from an ABS system. Following convention, a rear disc of 255mm is incorporated with a two-piston caliper.

Triumph suggests that the Sprint GT engine will produce 130ps of power, with a huge 108Nm of torque, this relates to effortless overtaking, ally this to a six-speed gearbox and the motorcycle is a delight to have as a companion.

The six-speed gearbox, as in keeping with most motorcycles is very clunky, the power delivery is linear but at times a little snatchy, primarily due of course to the final drive being a chain mechanism.

You don't buy this type of machine for out-and-out performance. However, a top speed in excess of 150mph is claimed.

Uneconomical

The machine is not particularly uneconomical to own, if you could possibly trundle everywhere at 56mph then the machine should reward you with 70mpg, but put this to a cruising speed of 75mph and Triumph suggests mid 50s. We know we take these with a pinch of salt but it certainly will be a rewarding and economical motorcycle to own.

The riding position for my 6ft frame concerned me initially, I was expecting to be a little uncomfortable with possibly the weight being too much on my wrists, the handle bars are not quite as high as I would like them and I also felt that my aged hips may decide to object to the height of the footrests, but I was very surprised, it fitted me perfectly. Not perhaps as comfortable as my beloved Pan European, but I had no problems doing a lengthy journey on the machine.

The fairing and the front screen assisted with the wind flow, and did not produce any excessive noises or buffeting, it certainly assisted me in feeling balanced and poised at all times.

The Sprint weighs in at 265kg, so it is not a particularly heavy bike, and the seat height is reassuringly low.

I was pleased to see that the Sprint GT had a centre stand as well as a side stand, this shows that someone from the designers understand what is required on a touring bike.

I think buyers who are happy to pay the £8,499 on the road will be seriously impressed with this British-made product.



The British-made Triumph Sprint GT has an on-the-road price of £8,499



The Sprint GT is equipped with 1050cc engine which produces 130ps



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Classified Ads

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business directory

commercial premises

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6 Property

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RENAULT CLIO 1.4 dynamique, 55 reg, 3 dr, full MOT, 58,000 with MOT, full electric, alloys, very good condition, £2,200. 01902 897401.

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07862 255317.

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LOOK

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RENAULT MEGANE 5dr, 1.4, 2001, older shape, MOT April 14, 86,000 miles, good condition £475.

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10 Personals

personal

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NICKY lonely single mum with GSOH, honest and very loving seeking trustworthy, cuddly, tactile male who can make all my dreams come true. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406523

SARA 32 very attractive single mum, OHAC, professional, looking for similar outgoing single dad 35-55yrs for companionship, hopefully more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406511

ATTRACTIVE female, young 49, 5ft 7ins, blonde hair, blue eyes, slim, genuine, loyal, easygoing, GSOH, seeks tall, handsome male, 40-50 for fun times, friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406135

SINGLE cuddly female, 5ft 6ins, green eyes, seeks male, 40-50 for fun and more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406015

WIDOW young hearted 70's, N/S, likes reading, concerts, gardening, meals out, WLTM younger gentleman with similar interests. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 404177

MEDIUM build female, 66, widow, 5ft 5ins, likes walks, reading, holidays, seeks sincere male. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407113

PAULA 38 single mum with OHAC, attractive blue eyes, size 14, seeking well built male with GSOH and honest/reliable disposition, looks unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407029

WHERE have all the genuine men gone? Sue single female who enjoys nights in/out, music, seeks sincere male to enjoy good times and get close to. Pis ring. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407025

SUSAN 34 attractive looking to find that special connection with a nice guy who would enjoy spending good times with me and share new interests. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406109

ANITA petite 33yr old tanned, toned sexy size 10 female with very high drive and lots of energy looking for similar man for adult no stings fun. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406835

HI I am Linda a lonely petite mature lady looking for nice caring male up to 65yrs who also has lots of love to give for hopeful relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406715

GOOD looking professional female, 51, enjoys arts, wining/dining, sightseeing, country walks, seeks special male to enjoy great Summer with. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406765

LINDA bored housewife wanting to spice things up a bit looking for clean well-mannered professional for discreet adult meets. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406705

SUE slim feminine brunette, caring, fun loving, independent, no ties, OHAC, loves cooking, WLTM willing male to get to know and spend quality times. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406693

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It's Villa chuckling after class is shown

Villa 3 Rotherham 0
THE last time Villa faced a Yorkshire side in the League Cup it ended in heartbreak, writes **Nick Mashiter**.
But with their Bradford beating still raw, the Villans began to heal the wounds by cruising past Rotherham.
Andi Weimann and Christian Benteke underlined their class with clinical first-half strikes and Fabian Delph grabbed the goal his performance deserved.
The Chuckle Brothers are honorary presidents of the Millers, but there were no cheap laughs for the visitors as Villa did a professional job.

Rotherham were masters of their own downfall on 19 minutes when Kari Arnason gifted Weimann the ball.
The Austrian raced down the right and - when his attempted pass ricocheted back off the covering Arnason - blasted into the top corner from 20 yards.
Five minutes before the break, again Arnason surrendered possession, this time to Ashley Westwood, who fed Gabby Agbonlahor and he skipped down the right to cross for Benteke to crash in a far-post header.
Martin Pringle shot just wide in response, but the game was over on 53 minutes when Delph volleyed home.

Tipton find a team full of heroes

FA Cup Preliminary Round
Tipton Town 1
Stratford Town 0
FACING a daunting home tie against last season's Midland Alliance League champions Tipton Town found a team full of heroes to grab the victory.
Early pressure and inroads by Stratford were confidently repelled by the home defence before the home side began to generate some attacking prowess of their own.
Mike Perks forced a spectacular save from Brady right at the start of the second half and from the resulting corner kick the midfielder drove home to put Tipton firmly in the driving seat.
In the closing moments Tipton missed their chance of cementing their victory when Ashton saw Brady deny him a penalty goal.

Glassboys fall prey to quick Eagle goals

Bedford Town 2 Stourbridge 0
THE Glassboys fell to a disappointing defeat at the New Eyrrie to slip to eighth in the league standings.

A bright start in the opening quarter of an hour or so by the visitors came to nothing before Bedford stunned Gary Hackett's side with two goals in the space of six minutes.

Despite enjoying the lion's share of the play after that, The Glassboys were unable to turn matters around.

The visitors started in positive fashion to put Bedford on the back

foot. In the ninth minute a kick down field from Dean Coleman was collected by Ben Billingham on the right and he exchanged passes with Luke Benbow before the latter curled a shot from just outside the corner of the box into the arms of home keeper Dan Green.

Two minutes later Coleman launched forward a long free-kick and Billingham laid the ball off to Sean Geddes who drove a rasping 25-yard effort wide and then on 14 minutes Geddes went closer with a 20-yard free-kick that flashed inches past Green's left-hand

Glassboys

upright. Against the run of play Stourbridge found themselves behind in the 19th minute as Paul Cooper sent in a low cross from the right towards the near post area where Dominic Lawless was upended by a mistimed tackle from Jamie Oliver.

Lawless got back up to slot away the resulting spot-kick to put Bedford ahead.

Things got even worse for The Glassboys in the 25th minute when a low shot from outside the box from Jeremy Nash was spilled

by Coleman straight to the feet of Andrew Phillips who had a simple tap-in to double the home side's lead.

The Eagles were visibly lifted by the goals and with a lead to defend, they battled gamely after that and got numbers behind the ball to frustrate Stourbridge.

An opportunity went begging in the 71st minute with Aaron Drake delivering a deep cross from the right and Richards headed the ball back across the face of the six-yard box towards Rowe who could not direct his header on-target.

Three minutes later Rowe set up

Roland Agbor - who had added some pace and energy to the visitor's attack following his introduction - and he cracked in a shot from just inside the box that was pushed away by Green as he dived away to his right.

Stourbridge continued to press and in the 84th minute Geddes slipped a pass inside to Agbor whose cross-shot was blocked.

Geddes pounced on the loose ball but blazed his shot over the bar.

In stoppage time Bedford might have rubbed salt into the wounds but Phillips' effort was parried by Coleman at his near post.

Seconds lose but pick up six points

South Staffs Premier Division
The George 190
Chadsmoor 207

The second team lost at home to second-placed Chadsmoor but improved their hopes of avoiding relegation by picking up six points in the process.

The George had wins by Mick McGuinness (21-10) and Chris Lambert (21-14) in the first four to lead by two shots.

The middle four increased the lead to 13 shots after wins by Stewart Meddings (21-11), Adrian Ford (21-15) and John Deakin (21-17).

The George looked set for victory but a poor back four that saw only Eric Winstone (21-14) win let the lead slip, eventually losing by 17 shots.

Warwick & Worcester Alliance Division 3
Hall Green 186
The George 196

The third team carried on their good form with another away win, this time at Hall Green.

Phil Brookes (21-8) and Peter Hayne (21-16) both won in the 1st four but Hall Green held a two-shot advantage.

The George moved into a 16-shot lead after wins by Dave James (21-6), Steve Wyton (21-9) and Paul Rose (21-17) in the middle four.

A 21-4 win by Darren Wood in the back four sealed a nine shot win for The George.

Club's feet on ground

WILL POTTINGER is keeping his feet firmly on the ground despite leading his Dudley side to the top of the table for the third time in four seasons ahead of the play-offs.

An excellent away win over Coventry on Friday plus a defeat for second placed Mildenhall at Buxton mathematically confirmed the Heathens will finish top.

Heathens face King's Lynn in the first leg of their Knockout Cup semi-final at Monmore on September 10.

They also head to bitter rivals Mildenhall this Sunday with a 4.30pm start.

Meanwhile Heathens fans are urged to snap up their tickets for the end of season party on November 15.

The new venue for the event is The Copthorne Hotel, Level Street, Brierley Hill. Tickets are £10 go to www.dudleyheathens.co.

First blood to Wolves as round two awaits

Wolves 2 Walsall 2 (Wolves won 4-2 on penalties)
WOLVES scraped home in part one of the alternative Black Country derby.

But if this pulsating clash is a pointer of what is to come when the two neighbours meet in League One at Molineux in 13 days' time, the fans are in for a treat.

A healthy attendance of 13,481 were treated to a no holds barred thriller which saw Wolves edge home 4-2 on penalties after leading twice, only to be held back by an increasingly threatening Walsall who finished normal time on top.

Indeed, had this Johnstone's Paint Trophy first-round tie gone to extra-time, the visitors were the team in the ascendancy to win it.

While Wolves should have held a more commanding lead than 1-0 at the break, Dean Smith's side were the better team once they equalised eight minutes after the interval.

Ultimately, ex-Walsall loan keeper Aaron McCarey was the hero after saving two penalties in the shootout, while the coolness of takers Bjorn Sigurdarson, Bakary Sako, Matt Doherty and David Davis saw Wolves home.

There had been no suggestion of the Saddlers pushing Wolves to the limit early on as the hosts took a fifth-minute lead.

Liam McAlinden stabbed home from inside the six-yard box to meet Matt Doherty's right-wing cross for his first senior goal.

In the second half, out of the blue, Walsall equalised with their first serious attempt on goal. And it was

Wolves

the smallest man on the pitch - Ashley Hemmings - who dived to head them level in the 53rd minute.

Three minutes later, Craig Westcarr set up James Baxendale. But the unmarked midfielder could only nod wide with the whole net to aim at.

Wolves looked to punish their League One neighbours on 63 after winning a penalty when Paul Downing shoved Danny Bath to the ground.

Richard O'Donnell saved Sako's driven spot-kick down the middle but was powerless to prevent him netting the rebound.

But Walsall were now snapping at Wolves' heels.

And they got their reward when substitute Troy Hewitt superbly volleyed inside McCarey's left-hand post after Doherty headed across his own box.

The spot-kick drama matched the action that preceded it, leaving everyone anticipating another humdinger in less than two weeks' time.

Whiley on form to land second doubles crown

HALESOWEN'S Jordanne Whiley is heading into her debut at this week's US Open Grand Slam in New York on the crest of a wave.

The tournament comes after she secured the second Super Series doubles title of her career over the weekend at the USTA Wheelchair Tennis Championships in St Louis.

After easing through her opening singles match Whiley went into her quarter-final against Dane Jiske Griffioen having never previously taken a set off the London 2012 women's singles bronze medallist.

However, the unseeded British No.2 reached her third singles semi-final at Super Series level, winning 6-2, 6-4.

Whiley was in turn beaten 6-2, 6-4 by Dutch world No.2 Aniek van Koot, but, partnering South Africa's Kgthatso Montjane, had the beating of both Dutchwomen in the doubles.

It was the first defeat for the Dutch reigning Doubles Masters champions since they won the women's doubles silver medal at the London 2012 Paralympics.

Whiley said: "They didn't play as well as I've seen them play, but we still had to play solid tennis to win."

Whiley will now partner



Wheelchair tennis champion Jordanne Whiley is heading off to New York

Montjane in the women's doubles in New York.

As Whiley prepares to complete a full set of career Grand Slam appearances when she plays in New York, she's also keen to encourage new players to

attend the Tennis Foundation's Wheelchair Tennis Camp at Billesley Indoor Tennis Centre and an application form, visit www.lta.org.uk/Tennis-Foundation/Tennis-for-Disabled-People/Disability-Camps/

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Wolves spot on
Penalty shootout sees Wanderers in round two
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Whiley win
Jordanne grabs doubles crown
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e-mail: chronsport@expressandstar.co.uk

Haseley aids side to book home tie

Black Country Rangers 1 Halesowen Town 2
HALESOWEN got past West Midlands Premier side Black Country to book a home tie with Brocton in the first qualifying round of the FA Cup.

Despite a bright start by the home side, which saw visiting goalkeeper Paul Evans save an Elliot Skelding shot, it was the Yeltz who took the lead on the half hour.

Ben Haseley ran down the right hand side and his cross was converted by Elliot Turner for his second goal for the club after only two games.

Halesowen doubled their lead soon after when Haseley found himself in space in the area and scuffed his effort on goal but the ball trickled over the line.

Haseley almost made it three just before the break but his downward header bounced up and over the bar. Rangers mounted a second half comeback, and after Evans saved Andy Price's early effort, he could do nothing when Paul Oakley scored on 51 minutes to reduce the arrears.

The Brocton tie will take place on Saturday, September 14.

Drivers hurt in rally crash

STOURBRIDGE rally driver Richard Sykes had mixed fortunes on last weekend's double-header BRC Challenge event in Ulster.

His podium finish on the first event was followed by a dramatic accident on the second.

Sykes and co-driver Simon Taylor went into the weekend looking for two victories to boost their hopes of retaining their BRC Challenge championship crown.

A cautious start was made on the opening day, the first stage was very wet and Sykes dropped a few seconds to the leading crew in his Citroën C2 R2 Max. A long 14 mile stage was next and Sykes used intermediate tyres as it was still wet but this proved to be a mistake.

"Conditions were very wet on stage one," said Sykes. "We were slightly cautious as, with it being a double-header, we couldn't risk an accident on the first event."

"I thought intermediate tyres would be the right choice for stage two but after eight miles they turned into blanchmange."

Welborn goes head to head as title fight nears

ROWLEY Regis' Jason Welborn and Birmingham's Max Maxwell went head-to-head as the build-up to their British Masters Light Middleweight Title fight gathers momentum.

The pair met at the scene of next week's clash, Walsall Town Hall, and both were in confident mood ahead of Saturday's fight night.

Welborn made an impressive start to life at light middleweight by convincingly beating Poland's Tomasz Mazurkiewicz back in June. Before that, he had operated at welterweight and fought Frankie Gavin for the British Title back in January.

Boxing

Maxwell has been extremely active over the summer. He fought four times in July, including a 6 x 3 contest with Liam Smith, and gave prospect Ronnie Heffron a tough night when they met at the Motorpoint Arena, on the undercard of Nathan Cleverly's clash with Sergey Kovalev.

Welborn and Maxwell are one of nine intriguing bouts taking place on Errol Johnson's 'Boys From The Black Country: The Aftermath' show'. Walsall's Chris Keane steps in with Remigijus Ziausys for a

second time. The Midlands champion defeated the experienced Lithuanian last March, thanks to a convincing points win.

Stoke lightweight Kevin Hanks takes on evergreen Sid Razak and unbeaten light welterweight prospect Luke Paddock will enjoy a hometown workout against vastly-experienced Nuneaton scrapper, Kristian Laight.

Tipton-born welterweight Anthony Tildesley makes his professional bow against durable South African Bheki Moyo whilst fellow youngster, West Bromwich welterweight Tom Stokes, takes on Bulgarian veteran, Danny Dontchev.

Tipton featherweight, Lee Glover, takes on Pavels Senkovs for a second time. The 'Tipton Slasher' defeated the Latvian on points back in 2010 and will be expecting a similar result when he steps back into the ring for the first time following a near two-year absence.

Impressive Wolverhampton super-featherweight prospect, Des Bowater, faces Chichester's Jonathan Fry and Stafford welterweight, Rob Hunt, takes on Birmingham veteran, Andrew Patterson.

Tickets, priced at £30 and £60 Ringside, are available from Walsall Town Hall Box Office on 0845 111 2900.

Big game role for Maya, 8

A DUDLEY girl has won the chance to play her part in an international football match in Wales.

Maya Tranter, aged eight and from Brierley Hill has won the chance to walk out at Cardiff City Stadium on Tuesday with the Wales international team before their FIFA World Cup Qualifying match versus Serbia.

Maya, as a McDonald's player escort, will walk out with the likes of Gareth Bale, Ashley Williams and Aaron Ramsey as they look for revenge for the 6-1 defeat suffered in Novi Sad last September.

Maya, who won the player escort place after entering a national competition via McDonald's website mcdonalds.co.uk/kickstart, said: "It will be amazing to walk out on to the pitch with the Wales team. I can't wait to meet the players and see the stadium!"

Ian Rush, MBE and McDonald's Director of Welsh Football, added: "This is a chance for Wales to overtake Serbia and move into third in the group - which would be a great achievement."

"The atmosphere will be electric. I'm sure the player escorts will have a fantastic time."

Snooker women heading for open

TWO top women snooker players from Dudley will be looking to take the honours at the British Open on Sunday.

World number one Maria Catalano and nine-time world champion Reanne Evans will be in action at the British Open at Whitley Bay Snooker Centre.

Also on the programme is a Seniors (40+) tournament.

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LADIES' ELITE DISPLAY AS FRIENDLIES FINISH

FC Elite 0 Halesowen Ladies 12
FOR their final friendly Halesowen Ladies travelled to Perry Barr to take on FC Elite who are a new side but made up of experienced players from other teams last year.

Without some of their key players Halesowen Ladies were forced to make some changes to their set up before taking on the Elite side.

Halesowen got off to a bright start with the squad moving the ball well around the pitch.

Rachel Letford got the Yeltz off to a flyer within five minutes through a pitch perfect cross from Lyndsey Glover.

Letford made it 2-0 just two minutes later with a through-ball from Haley Chatwin.

Instrumental
Chatwin was then instrumental in one of Elite's defenders put it in her own net to make it 3-0 inside 10 minutes.

Halesowen were firmly in control of the game and were making sure the home side were kept under constant pressure.

On two occasions the Yeltz defence was breached but the solid keeping of Hannah Tromans helped to keep another clean sheet for the Halesowen squad.

Elite must have felt overwhelmed as the goals started coming quick and fast.

Defender Charlotte Byatt scored from a penalty on 35 minutes. Katie Moore scored her first goal with a tremendous volley as half-time approached.

Gemma Moss even had

Halesowen Ladies

time to score with a low drive.

The Yeltz where dealt a blow though when keeper Tromans hurt her hand and had to come off the field injured.

During the second half the players were asked to keep possession rather than go for goal and as requested they passed the ball well but even then, still the goals kept coming.

Skipper Glover scored direct from a corner she bent into the goal.

She then put through Chatwin who grabbed her second score of the contest.

Then stand-in keeper Lauren Gilbert unleashed a powerful goal kick which bounced over the defence and allowed Letford to grab her hat-trick.

Angie Morley scored a floating shot in which there was nothing the keeper could do.

Wing-back Shell Thomas finished the rout with a simple tap-in. Credit to the Elite side they never gave up and were a strong side, but the Yeltz squad were just far too good on the day.

This was Halesowen seventh friendly and they are looking very sharp and strong, the season starts next Sunday, September 14.



Halesowen's Angie Morley scores one of a dozen the Yelts Ladies put past Elite in the last of their friendly matches



Rachel Letford of the Yeltz Ladies goes in for the kill scoring her third during the 12-0 rout of FC Elite

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